



President Barack Obama speaks to members of the media at the start of a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, March 4, 2013. Republicans Monday unveiled new spending measures as the broad cuts to the U.S. budget slowly began to be felt across the country.  
(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

## GOP unveils 'sequester softener' as cuts creep in

**ANDREW TAYLOR**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Republicans controlling the House moved Monday to give the Pentagon more money for military readiness while easing the pain felt by such agencies as the FBI and the Border Patrol from the across-the-board spending cuts that are just starting to take effect. The effort is part of a huge spending measure that would fund day-to-day federal operations through September — and head

off a potential government shutdown coming later this month. The measure would leave in place automatic cuts of 5 percent to domestic agencies and 7.8 percent to the Pentagon ordered by President Barack Obama Friday night after months of battling with Republicans over the budget. But the House Republicans' legislation would award the Defense and Veterans Affairs departments their detailed 2013 budgets while other agencies would be frozen at 2012

levels — and then bear the across-the-board cuts. The impact of the new cuts was proving slow to reach the broader public as Obama convened the first Cabinet meeting of his second term to discuss next steps. The Pentagon did say it would furlough thousands of military school teachers around the world and close commissaries an extra day each week. And Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the spending cuts were causing delays

in customs lines at airports including Los Angeles International and O'Hare International in Chicago. Obama said he was continuing to seek out Republican partners to reach a deal to ease or head off the cuts, but there was no sign that a breakthrough was in the works to reverse them. The new GOP funding measure is set to advance through the House on Wednesday. It's aimed at preventing a government shutdown when a six-month spending bill passed

last September runs out March 27. The latest measure would provide an increase for military operations and maintenance efforts as well as veterans' health programs but would put most the rest of the government on budget autopilot. After accounting for the across-the-board cuts, domestic agencies would face reductions exceeding 5 percent when compared with last year.

**Continued on next page**



# Obama nominates 3 to Cabinet-level posts

**DINA CAPIELLO**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama signaled his willingness to tackle climate change with his pick of Gina McCarthy to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, one of three major appointments he announced Monday.

A 25-year veteran of environmental policy and politics, McCarthy has worked for Republicans and Democrats, including Obama's presidential rival, Mitt Romney, who tapped her to help draft state plans for curbing the pollution linked to global warming.

Along with McCarthy, Obama nominated nuclear physicist Ernie Moniz to lead the Energy Department and Wal-Mart's Sylvia Mathews Burwell to head the budget office.

McCarthy, 58, has led the EPA's air pollution division since 2009, ushering in a host of new rules targeting air pollution from power plants, automobiles, and oil and gas production.

In nominating McCarthy as the nation's top environmental official, Obama is promoting a climate change champion at a time when he has renewed his commitment to address global warming and the agency is contemplating a

host of new rules that could help achieve that.

But McCarthy will have to balance the administration's ambitions with a dwindling budget: Congress has cut EPA's budget by 18 percent over the last two years, and the automatic budget cuts that went into effect Friday will hinder the agency's energy efficiency programs and climate research.

Moniz, as head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Energy Initiative, has worked on developing ways to produce power while curbing greenhouse

gas emissions.

"They're going to be making sure we're investing in American energy, that we're doing everything we can to combat the threat of climate change, that we're going to be creating jobs and economic opportunity," Obama said.

McCarthy also brings a distinctive pronunciation of carbon dioxide, the chief pollutant blamed for climate change.

McCarthy, in her thick accent, pronounces carbon as "cahbon."

"You wouldn't know by talking to her, but Gina's

from Boston," Obama said. He then praised her for putting in place over the last four years what he said were "practical, cost-effective ways to keep our air clean and our economy growing."

Already, McCarthy has orchestrated many of the agency's most controversial new rules, such as placing the first-ever limits on greenhouse gases on newly built power plants and a long-overdue standard to control toxic mercury pollution from burning coal for electricity.

□



**President Barack Obama announces his nominations for three new Cabinet-level posts in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, March 4, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

## GOP unveils 'sequester softener,' cuts creep in

**Continued from front**

But Republicans would carve out a host of exemptions seeking to protect certain functions, including federal prisons and fire-fighting efforts in the West, and to provide new funding for embassy security and modernizing the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The FBI and the Border Patrol would be able to maintain current staffing levels and would not have to furlough employees. The legislation would provide about \$2 billion more than the current level to increase security at U.S. embassies and diplomatic missions worldwide. Last September, a terrorist attack on the U.S.

diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. A project to repair the Capitol Dome in Washington could stay on track, and NASA would be protected from the harshest effects of the automatic cuts, known in Washington as a sequester. The across-the-board cuts would carve \$85 billion in spending from the government's \$3.6 trillion budget for this year, concentrating the cuts in the approximately \$1 trillion allocated to the day-to-day agency operating budgets set by Congress each year. Those so-called discretionary accounts received big boosts in the first two years

of Obama's presidency when Democrats controlled Congress but have borne the brunt of the cuts approved as Obama and Republicans have grappled over the budget. Both Democrats and Republicans for months have warned the cuts are draconian and would slow the growth of the economy and cost hundreds of thousands of jobs. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, for instance, says they would slow the economy by 0.6 percent and cost about 750,000 jobs.

Obama presided Monday over the first meeting of his new-look Cabinet in a sobering climate of fiscal belt-tightening, urging

humane management of spending cuts for communities and families that are "going to be hurting."

"We can manage through it," the president told reporters. Obama and members of his Cabinet had been warning for weeks that the cuts would be painful, but the fact is they will be slow to take effect, with the first furloughs of government workers not due until next month.

qCuts to many programs may go unnoticed entirely. The White House budget office's 83-page sequestration order was released Friday evening, detailing the cuts to more than 1,000 separate government accounts, big and small. □

## U.S. senators reach deal on gun trafficking

**JIM ABRAMS**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Gun trafficking and purchasing firearms with the intent of transferring them to someone else would become federal crimes under bipartisan legislation announced by five U.S. senators Monday.

Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Patrick Leahy, a Democrat, said the bill would establish tough penalties for those who buy a firearm or ammunition with the intent of transferring it to a criminal or a person barred from gun ownership, known as a straw purchase. The measure would also make it a crime to smuggle firearms out of the United States.

The Judiciary Committee has taken a lead in considering the gun violence issue following the shooting massacre last December at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, that left 20 children and six educators dead. Leahy said there is no federal law now that defines either gun trafficking or straw purchasing as crimes. The legislation will be taken up by the Judiciary Committee on Thursday as part of a package of four bills aimed at reducing gun violence. The others involve regulating assault weapons, enhancing school safety and requiring background checks for all firearm sales. The proposed legislation would make it a crime to transfer a weapon when a person has "reasonable cause to believe" that the firearm will be used in criminal activity. It contains exemptions for the transfer of a firearm as a gift, or in relation to a legitimate raffle or contest. While existing law makes it a crime to smuggle firearms into the United States, the Senate proposal would also ban the smuggling of weapons out of the United States. That provision is specifically aimed at the trafficking of arms across the Mexican border. □



# Biden at AIPAC: 'Obama is not bluffing' on Iran

**DONNA CASSATA**  
**JOSH LEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Vice President Joe Biden vowed Monday that the United States will not back down from its pledge to use military action to thwart Iran's nuclear program should all other options fail.

"President Barack Obama is not bluffing," he said, seeking to reassure anxious Israelis and their American supporters.

In a prelude to Obama's upcoming trip to Israel — his first as president — Biden told a powerful pro-Israel lobby that the U.S. does not want a war with Iran, but that the window for diplomacy is closing. He said prevention, not containment, is the only outcome the U.S. will accept.

But in a sign the U.S. is still reluctant to embroil itself in another Mideast military effort, Biden cautioned more than 13,000 Israel supporters at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's annual conference that if Israel or the U.S. acts too hastily, without exhausting every other reasonable option, they could risk losing the backing of the international community.

"That matters because God forbid we have to act, it's important that the rest of the world is with us," Biden said to muted applause.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking to the conference by video link from Jerusalem, pushed back against such reluctance, reflecting the tension still present between the U.S. and its closest Mideast ally as they seek a united front to stave off Iran's nuclear program. "From the bottom of my heart and from the clarity of my brain, words alone will not stop Iran. Sanctions alone will not stop Iran," Netanyahu said.

The U.S. and world nations have imposed crippling sanctions on Iran's oil and financial industries in hopes of forcing Tehran back to the negotiating table and persuading it to give up

nuclear ambitions. Netanyahu has warned that the world has until this summer — at the latest — to keep Iran from building a bomb, and has repeatedly hinted at Israel's willingness to launch a military strike to

stop it, an endeavor the United States likely would be dragged into.

Participants in the conference were struck by Netanyahu's tough talk, which suggested that military action was inevitable.

"I'm afraid there is going to be something drastic that could happen," said Barbara Rogan, a retired librarian. "Iran feels, I think, that they have nothing to lose while forging ahead. The sanctions aren't

enough to frighten them." But Natalie Telson, a Columbia University sophomore, suggested that Netanyahu's saber-rattling was driven in part by his audience — "12,000 of the most pro-Israel active people in the country."

Iran insists that its nuclear program is intended for peaceful purposes such as power generation and medical uses, but the head of the U.N. nuclear agency said this month he cannot guarantee all of Iran's activities are peaceful unless Tehran increases cooperation.

The White House sees Obama's visit later in March to Israel, Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories as an opportunity to reset relations with Netanyahu, who has frequently bumped heads with Obama, and to strengthen ties with Israelis, many of whom bristled at Obama's early efforts to reach out to the Arab world and his decision not to visit Israel during his first term as president. □



Vice President Joe Biden addresses the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) 2013 Policy Conference, Monday, March 4, 2013, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

## New snowstorm threatens Midwest cities

**STEVE KARNOWSKI**  
**Associated Press**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — A late-season snowstorm that blanketed parts of the Dakotas on Monday was threatening to do the same to cities from Minneapolis to Chicago, which were bracing for as much as 10 inches of powder. The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings for a long swath stretching across the Upper Midwest from North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota, then south-eastward into western and southern Wisconsin, north-eastern Iowa and northern Illinois.

"There's quite a variance (in precipitation) depending on where you are, but overall it's a pretty large storm system," said Dave Kellenbenz, a weather service meteorologist in Grand Forks, N.D.

North Dakota took the brunt of the storm early Monday. In the northeast part of the state, Devils Lake had 11 inches of snow

coated roads was more of a problem but there were no immediate reports of major accidents. No travel was advised



Snow-covered trees form a canopy over Avenue C in Bismarck on Monday, March 4, 2013, in the wake of a slow moving winter storm.

(AP Photo/Tom Stromme)

by midmorning, and a foot of snow fell in Sarsles about 60 miles to the north. In southeastern North Dakota and parts of eastern South Dakota, freezing rain that

in several North Dakota counties, while many schools started classes late or canceled them for the day, as did a handful in Minnesota.

Morning commuters in the Twin Cities area got a foretaste of the storm as they were greeted with up to an inch of snow. While rush-hour traffic slowed on many major metro highways, few accidents were reported.

The relative lack of problems prompted Lt. Eric Roseke, spokesman for the Minnesota State Patrol, to drop his plan to tweet accident totals, as he customarily does in major snowstorms.

Few delays were reported at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Morning snowfall totals reached 4 inches in Vesta, Wanamingo and a few other parts of southern Minnesota, but only 1.4 inches in Minneapolis. Still, the weather service said the snowfall was expected to intensify in the afternoon and evening. □



# US, Saudi Arabia present united front on Syria, Iran

**MATTHEW LEE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON/RIYADH (AP)** — The United States and Saudi Arabia on Monday presented a united front to Iran and Syria.

They warned Syrian President Bashar Assad that they will boost support to rebels fighting to oust him unless he steps down and put Iran's leadership on notice that time is running out for a diplomatic resolution to concerns about its nuclear program. After a series of meetings in the Riyadh, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told reporters at a joint news conference that Assad must understand that recent scud missile attacks on regime foes in the city of Aleppo would not be tolerated by the international community and that he had lost all claim to be Syria's legitimate

leader. Saud, whose country along with other Gulf states is widely believed to be supplying weapons to the Syrian rebels, said Saudi Arabia could not ignore

70,000 lives. He said that history had never seen a government use strategic missiles against its own people. "This cannot go on," he said. "He has lost

abling the Syrian people to exercise its legitimate right to defend itself against the regime's killing machine." Saud also decried the fact that the Assad continued to get weapons from "third parties," a veiled reference to Russia and Iran, which have backed the regime through the conflict.

"Saudi Arabia will do everything within its capacity, and we do believe that what is happening in Syria is a slaughter, a slaughter of innocents" he said. "We can't bring ourselves to remain quiet. Morally we have a duty." The Obama administration has resisted appeals from the Syrian opposition to provide it with weapons and ammunitions over fears that they could fall into the hands of Islamist extremists who have gained support among Assad opponents. But Kerry sidestepped a question about whether

the arms reportedly being supplied to the rebels by Saudi Arabia and others were a concern. Instead, he criticized Iran, Hezbollah and Russia by name for giving weaponry to the Assad regime.

Kerry did announce last week that the U.S. would for the first time provide rebel fighters in the Free Syrian Army with non-lethal assistance — rations and medical assistance. European nations like Britain and France are expected to soon send the rebels defensive military equipment and Kerry has said the totality of the aid could be enough to change the situation on the ground.

"The United States will continue to work with our friends to empower the Syrian opposition to hopefully be able to bring about a peaceful resolution, but if not, to increase pressure on Assad," Kerry said. □



**Saudi Crown Prince Salman bin Abdul-Aziz is greeted as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry speaks with an advisor at Yamamah Palace in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on Monday, March 4, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)

the brutality Assad is inflicting on his people, even after two years of escalating violence that has claimed

all authority." In his discussions with Kerry, Saud said he had "stressed the importance of en-



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# Mourning in New York as baby dies after hit-and-run

COLLEEN LONG  
VERENA DOBNIK  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A close-knit ultra-Orthodox Jewish community in Brooklyn was plunged into a new round of mourning Monday by the death of a baby who was delivered by cesarean section after his parents were killed in a grisly hit-and-run crash a day earlier.

Police hunted for the suspected driver, identified as Julio Acevedo, saying he was barreling down a residential street in a BMW at 60 mph, or twice the speed limit, early Sunday when he collided with a car hired to take the couple to the hospital.

The death of the newborn on Monday piled tragedy upon tragedy and compounded the community's grief.

The baby was buried near the fresh graves of his parents, Nachman and Raizy Glauber, both 21, according to Isaac Abraham, a spokesman for the Hasidic Jewish community. About a thousand community members turned out for the young couple's funeral a day earlier. "The mood in the neighborhood is very heavy," said Oscar Sabel, a retired printer who lives near the scene of the accident. "We all hoped the baby would survive."

Brooklyn is home to the largest community of ultra-Orthodox Jews outside Israel, more than 250,000. The couple wed last year in a marriage arranged through a matchmaker and were living in the Williamsburg neighborhood.

They were members of the Satmar Hasidic sect, whose men dress in dark coats

and hats, wear long beards like their Eastern European ancestors and have limited dealings with the outside world. Raizy Glauber grew up in a prominent rabbinical family. Her husband was studying at a rabbinical college; his family founded a line of clothing for Orthodox Jews.

Sabel, dressed in the traditional long black coat of the Satmar, said it was a terrible tragedy.

"But it's what God wants," he said. "Maybe the baby's death, and his parents', is not for nothing; God doesn't have to give us answers."

Shortly after midnight Sunday, Raizy Glauber, who was seven months pregnant, wasn't feeling well, so the couple decided to go to the hospital, said Sara Glauber, Nachman Glauber's cousin. They called a

livery cab, a hired car that is arranged via telephone, not hailed off the street like



This photo shows Julio Acevedo, 44, who police are looking for in connection with the death of an expectant couple that was killed in a car accident in Brooklyn Sunday, and their premature baby, who was delivered alive but did not survive. (AP Photo/NYPD)

a yellow cab.

The livery cab had a stop sign, but it's not clear if

the driver stopped. Police said the crash with the BMW reduced the cab to a crumpled heap, and Raizy Glauber was thrown from the wreck. The engine ended up in the back seat, Abraham said.

Police said the driver of the BMW ran away.

The baby weighed only about 4 pounds when he was delivered, neighbors and friends said. He died of extreme prematurity, the city medical examiner's office said. The driver of the livery cab, Pedro Nunez Delacruz, was knocked unconscious but was not seriously hurt. His vehicle should not have been sent to pick up the passengers because an application to use the Toyota as a livery cab had not yet been approved, the city Taxi and Limousine Commission said. □

## 12 charged with manslaughter in FAMU hazing death

KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

**ORLANDO, Florida (AP)** — Twelve former members of a university band were charged Monday with manslaughter in the 2011 hazing death of a drum major. Ten of the Florida A&M University band members had been charged last May with third-degree felony hazing for the death of 26-year-old Robert Champion, but the state attorney's office said they are adding the charge of manslaughter for each defendant. They also have charged two additional defendants with manslaughter, though they have yet to be arrested. The second-degree manslaughter charge, which was announced during a status hearing Monday afternoon, carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Champion died in Orlando in November 2011 after he collapsed following what prosecutors say was a savage beating during a hazing ritual. It happened on a bus parked in a hotel parking lot after Florida A&M played Bethune-Cookman in their annual rivalry football game. Champion's death drew attention to the brutal practice of hazing — or an endurance ritual for new members of an organization — among marching bands at some U.S. colleges. Authorities said Champion had bruises on his chest, arms, shoulder and back and died of internal bleeding. Witnesses told emergency dispatchers that the drum major was vomiting before he was found unresponsive aboard the bus.

Christopher Chestnut, an attorney for Champion's

parents, said Pam and Robert Champion, Sr. were pleased with Ashton's decision to upgrade the charges. "These charges are commensurate with

the acts committed," Chestnut said. "It sends the right message regarding zero-tolerance of hazing in the FAMU band." Prosecutors had originally

filed felony hazing charges because the charges only required that they prove the defendants took part in a hazing that resulted in death. □

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# Casey Anthony appears in public at bankruptcy hearing

**TAMARA LUSH**  
**Associated Press**

**TAMPA, Fla. (AP)** — Appearing in public for the first time since she was acquitted of murder, Casey Anthony revealed that she doesn't have a job or a car, lives with friends and relies on unsolicited gift cards and cash to get by. "I guess you could say I'm living free off the kindness" of others, Anthony said at a bankruptcy hearing in Tampa.

Anthony, 26, was acquitted of murder in July 2011 in the death of her daughter, Caylee. She was released from jail several days later and disappeared from the spotlight. At the time, she had been vilified online and elsewhere, and her attorneys said threats had been made against her.

On Monday, dressed in a white short-sleeve top, a black skirt and black heels, she emerged from a sport utility vehicle and several dozen photographers and reporters swarmed her. When she left the courthouse, about 10 U.S. Homeland Security officers stood on the steps with guns. During the 50-minute long hearing, she consulted with her team of attorneys frequently. When she spoke, it was in a calm, matter-of-fact voice, and she mostly answered "yes sir" or "no sir" to the trustee's questions. Anthony said all of the "unsolicited" money, gift cards and donations were sent to her attorneys, who then pass them along to her. She added that her criminal attorney, Jose Baez, has given her about

\$3,400 in cash "to help with my living expenses." She refused to disclose who pays for her cell phone, with one of her attorneys saying that it was due to "safety and security concerns." Anthony filed for bankruptcy in January,

tation was damaged by Anthony telling detectives that a baby sitter by the same name kidnapped Caylee. The detectives were investigating the 2008 disappearance of Caylee, who found dead several months later.

has been approached to tell her story for a movie, book or TV deal. Anthony insisted that she has not spoken to any agent or media organization.

Shuker said afterward that he questioned whether she was telling the truth.

"From the smell test, it didn't smell right," he said. "Any time you see an attorney in what's supposed to be a no asset case being that active, more to the point, you had five attorneys there, allegedly none of them being paid, that's odd."

Shuker said that his client suffers damages "to this day" because of her alleged link to the case.

Anthony's listed debts include \$500,000 for attorney fees and costs for Baez, her criminal defense lawyer during the trial; \$145,660 for the Orange County Sheriff's office for investigative fees and costs; \$68,540 for the Internal Revenue Service for taxes, interest and penalties; and \$61,505 for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for court costs. □



**Casey Anthony, center, leaves the United States Courthouse in Tampa, Fla., with U.S. Marshals after a bankruptcy hearing Monday, March 4, 2013, in Tampa, Fla.**

(AP Photo/Brian Blanco)

claiming about \$1,000 in assets and \$792,000 in liabilities. Only one creditor showed up at the hearing: R. Scott Shuker, who is a lawyer for Zenaide Fernandez-Gonzalez. Fernandez-Gonzalez said her repu-

Anthony's attorney said details offered by Anthony did not match Fernandez-Gonzalez and clearly showed Anthony wasn't talking about her. Shuker grilled Anthony repeatedly on whether she

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## California woman dies after CPR refused

**GOSIA WOZNIACKA**  
**GARANACE BURKE**  
**Associated Press**

**BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP)** — Police on Monday were investigating whether there was any criminal wrongdoing in the handling of a health emergency at an independent living facility where a woman died after a nurse refused to provide CPR.

An official at Glenwood Gardens, a sprawling, gated facility in Bakersfield, defended the nurse, saying she had followed policy in dealing with the 87-year-old woman who collapsed in a dining room. A police dispatcher who fielded the 911 call was told the woman appeared to have a heart problem and was barely breathing. Police immediately routed the call to the Bakersfield Fire Department, where a dispatcher pleaded with a nurse at the home to perform CPR on the woman. The nurse refused, saying

one of the facility's policies prevented her from doing CPR, according to an audio recording of the call. Michaela Beard, a spokeswoman for Bakersfield police, said she couldn't provide any further information because the investigation was ongoing.

An unidentified woman made the Feb. 26 call, and asked for paramedics to be sent to help the woman. Later, a woman who identified herself as a nurse got on the phone and told dispatcher Tracey Halvorson she was not permitted to do CPR on the woman. Halvorson urged the nurse to start CPR, warning the consequences could be dire if no one tried to revive the woman, who had been laid out on the floor on her instructions.

"I understand if your boss is telling you, you can't do it," the dispatcher said. "But ... as a human being ... you know, is there anybody that's willing to help

this lady and not let her die?"

"Not at this time," the nurse answered. During the 7-minute, 16-second call, Halvorson assured the nurse that Glenwood couldn't be sued if anything went wrong in attempts to resuscitate the resident, saying the local emergency medical system "takes the liability for this call," the transcript states. Halvorson is an experienced dispatcher and has worked for the county center for at least a decade, Kern County Fire Department Deputy Chief Michael Miller said.

She followed procedures until she ran out of options when the caller refused to perform CPR or identify anyone else who could, Miller said.

"It's not uncommon to have someone refuse to provide CPR if they physically can't do it, or they're so upset they just can't function," Miller said. □



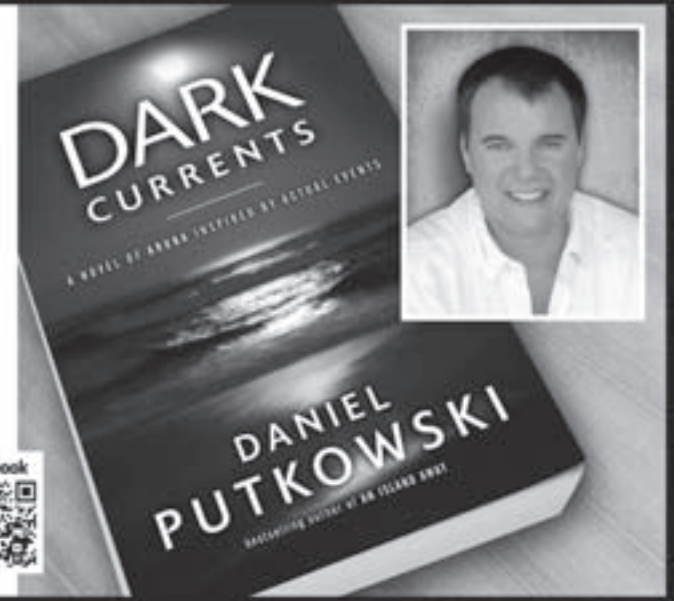
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## Firm buys site of stalled Vegas 'Echelon' project

**HANNAH DREIER**  
**Associated Press**

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — A Malaysian conglomerate said Monday it will break

ter and a 4,000-seat theater. Echelon was one of several multibillion-dollar projects that has stalled in Las

first in Las Vegas and the latest sign that the area where it's located might be turning around. Developers also broke ground

Nevada is another fantastic sign that Las Vegas and the Strip are poised for great things moving forward in 2013 and beyond," Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval governor said in a statement. The Echelon was intended to be a mixed-use development complete with 5,000 rooms in six hotels, lush landscaping and luxury amenities. The 48-year-old Stardust resort was demolished in 2007 to make way for the \$4.8 billion project that had been slated to open next to Circus Circus by 2010. Construction workers toiled

for a year and built 12 stories on the corner of Las Vegas Boulevard and Desert Inn Road before the credit markets choked. The Genting conglomerate opened its first casino in 1971 in Malaysia and now operates sites in New York state, Philippines, United Kingdom, Singapore, and the Bahamas. "This is an unparalleled opportunity to showcase what has made the Resorts World brand a globally recognized success for the past several decades," CEO KT Lim said in a statement about the Las Vegas project. □



The stalled Echelon construction site is seen Saturday, March 2, 2013, in Las Vegas. The Genting Group announced the purchase of the nearly 90 acres on the Las Vegas Strip of the Boyd Gaming Corp.'s stalled project.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

ground next year on a project that could breathe new economic life into a tired stretch of the Las Vegas Strip where work has stalled during the recession. The Genting Group said it will pay \$350 million for the 87-acre (35.2-hectare) site where the partially built Echelon project by Boyd Gaming Corp. came to a halt nearly five years ago. Genting intends to build a multi-billion dollar casino that will feature 3,500 hotel rooms, a convention cen-

Vegas as the economy crashed. The northern end of the Strip once boasted casinos considered the cutting edge of luxury and style. But in recent years it has become the home of huge empty lots and darkened projects, including Las Vegas Plaza and Fontainebleau Las Vegas, a hulking bluish-green tower that was 70 percent finished when construction ended. Genting's "Resorts World Las Vegas" project is its

last month on renovations to the Sahara hotel-casino that went dark in 2011 and is expected to reopen next year as SLS Las Vegas. Genting plans to start construction in 2014 and open in 2016, creating tens of thousands of jobs while re-vamping a project many thought would sit silent for years. Genting said it will build on the steel and concrete skeleton of the Echelon. "The entrance of one of the world's leading resort gaming developers into

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## DC's Constant Crisis Countdown

**Daniel Malloy**

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

**WASHINGTON** -- If our cash-strapped federal government could afford it, a fine addition to the top of the Capitol dome would be the ticking clock from the television show "24." Washington is constantly counting down from one crisis to the next.

The latest zero hour came Friday with a whimper. The across-the-board spending cuts known in Beltway-ese as "sequestration" officially arrived after a year and a half of hype. Vice President Joe Biden and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell did not bust down the door, Jack Bauer-style, with a late-hour deal. Failure is an orphan -- especially here -- so last week was more about blaming the other party for the cuts rather than coming up with a deal to avert them. So start the clock again: March 27 is the new countdown date.

That is when government funding expires, and a shutdown would be more dramatic than sequestration, which President Barack Obama described as "not a cliff, but it is a tumble downward."

The self-imposed deadline pressure and constant ticking clock have become routine because a divided Congress cannot break the gridlock otherwise.

And people are starting to tune out. There has been plenty of sequester hand-wringing in Washington, but when U.S. Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., spent a week in his military-heavy

district -- where furloughs loom -- he found a lack of trepidation.

"There might be some indications of Obama fatigue, that this governing by crisis, governing by fiscal cliff, is wearing a little bit thin and people are getting skeptical about it," Kingston said.

So the country is sick of it. Congress is sick of it. Is there a way out?

Sure, Georgia's members of Congress reply, if the other party starts agreeing with us.

"It's going to take some leadership on the Republican side of the aisle," said U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson, a Democrat. "Perhaps the rank and file will rise up and put the nation's interest in front of their own personal interests. Perhaps that might happen."

Ticking-clock governance has its advantages for each party. When there was a countdown to tax hikes, Democrats ended up with a tactical victory in the "fiscal cliff," with \$600 billion in tax increases mostly on top incomes. This time, despite a muddled message of how the sequester was both bad and Obama's idea but lower spending is good, the Republicans are coming away with smaller government programs -- the party's stated goal.

All eyes now are on March 27. Next will be a to-be-determined date in May when our old friend the debt ceiling comes into play again, and the perpetual countdown to crisis continues. □

## Poor to face the pain of budget cuts

**ANNIE LOWREY**

© 2013 New York Times

**WASHINGTON** -- The \$85 billion in automatic cuts working their way through the federal budget spare many programs that aid

removed from emergency shelters or other housing arrangements because of the cuts, the agency said. Adrienne Todman, executive director of the District of Columbia Housing Au-

are waiting to receive their voucher from us."

In Washington and across the country, families and individuals generally need to have very low incomes to be eligible for federal



**Apartments at Langston Terrace Dwellings, a public housing project, in Washington, March. 4, 2013. Recent "sequestration" cuts, as they are called, contain billions of dollars in mandatory budget reductions to programs that help low-income Americans.**

(Daniel Rosenbaum/The New York Times)

the poorest and most vulnerable Americans, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and food stamps.

But the sequestration cuts still contain billions of dollars in mandatory budget reductions in programs that help low-income Americans.

Unless a deal is reached to change the course of the cuts, housing programs would be hit particularly hard, with about 125,000 "individuals and families" put at risk of becoming homeless, the Department of Housing and Urban Development estimated. An additional 100,000 formerly homeless people might be

thority, said no person in her program using a housing voucher or living in a public facility would be put out on the street.

But to absorb the cuts, Todman plans to defer maintenance and leave staff vacancies open. She may also not be able to fill open public housing units as tenants vacate them. And she may stop rolling over housing vouchers to families on the waiting list.

"It's a shame. It's more than a shame, it's despicable," Todman said, noting that her agency already lacked enough capacity to meet the district's needs. "These are real families that we have deemed eligible and

assistance.

"These people are very, very, very poor," said Sheila Crowley, president of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, speaking of recipients of federal housing support across the country. "They don't have resources to fall back on."

Other programs that assist low-income families also face significant cuts, including one that delivers hot meals to the elderly. Policy experts are particularly concerned about cuts to the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants and children known as WIC, which provides food and baby formula for at-risk families. □



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## Port Said clashes draw Egyptian military into turmoil

**SARAH EL DEEB**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Clashes between protesters and the police in the restive Egyptian city of Port Said that entered their second day Monday have dragged in

were overwhelmed by police tear gas, one army colonel was wounded by live fire, and troops even opened fire over the heads of police, bringing cheers from protesters.

Three policemen and three

many in Egypt view with a mix of concern and relief — that the military may move back into politics, prompted by mushrooming protests, a breakdown in law and order and mounting challenges to the Islamist

Prominent opposition leader Mohammed ElBaradei warned of decaying state institutions and rising levels of violence.

"The regime in its current form is unable to manage the country," he wrote on his Twitter account. "There must be a radical review before it is too late."

Unable to halt the violence, both the police and military Monday sought to deny any tensions between them. Meanwhile, there was no official comment from the presidency following one of the worst flare-ups of violence since January.

Unrest also spread in other parts of the country. In the capital, Cairo, protesters blocked the main thoroughfare along the Nile

River, and police tried to clear them with volleys of tear gas. Other disgruntled young men set fire to two police cars in two different locations in Cairo, sending police fleeing the vehicles in the middle of traffic.

The unrest in Egypt is reaching new heights, just weeks before the parliamentary elections scheduled next month, which have further enflamed an already tense political landscape.

Opposition leaders are calling for a boycott of the elections, accusing Morsi of failing to seek consensus over critical issues, such as the drafting of the constitution and the elections law. Morsi opponents accuse him of working to lock his Muslim Brotherhood's hold on power. □



An Egyptian protester throws back a tear gas canister towards police, unseen, during clashes in Port Said, Egypt, Monday, March 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ahmed Ramadan)

the military to a dramatic extent into the nation's turmoil.

At times in the violence, frictions have arisen between the police that were battling protesters and army forces that tried to break up the fighting. Troops in between the two sides

civilians were killed in the fighting, and troops stood by as protesters torched a government complex Monday that contains the city's main police building.

The scenes, following three weeks of strikes and protests in the city, have underlined a scenario that

President Mohammed Morsi. Some opponents of Morsi have outright called for the military to take power, and even those who say they oppose a military return have used the prospect to pressure Morsi to find some consensus in the country's political crisis.

## Israeli rabbi who promoted peace dies

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Rabbi Menachem Froman, an Israeli settler known for his efforts to promote coexistence between Arabs and Jews, has died. He was 68. His son Shivi Froman said he died Monday after a long illness.

Froman, who served as the rabbi of the West Bank set-

tlement of Tekoa, had ties to many Palestinian leaders. He was an outspoken opponent of attacks by Jewish settlers on mosques. He often visited damaged holy sites with local Palestinian officials. He believed Israelis and Palestinians could live together peacefully.

Froman was a founder of the Gush Emunim movement promoting Israeli settlement of the West Bank. He opposed the removal of Jewish settlers from the area, claiming a sacred biblical connection to the land.

His funeral is scheduled for Tuesday. □



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## Londonderry cops thwart IRA mortar attack, arrest 3

**S. POGATCHNIK**  
**Associated Press**

**DUBLIN (AP)** — Northern Ireland police stopped an Irish Republican Army splinter group from firing mortar shells at a police station in an attack that could have killed both officers and nearby civilians, a senior officer said Monday. Detectives interrogated three men suspected of involvement.

Police tracking the attackers' movements rammed the minivan containing four mortar tubes and shells as it drove into Northern Ireland's second-largest city, Londonderry, on Sunday night. They arrested the minivan driver, a motorcyclist trailing the minivan, and another man in a follow-up search of a home linked to the mortars' construction and storage.

More than 100 homes were evacuated overnight as British Army experts using a remote-controlled robot defused the four mortar rounds, which officers said were ready to be fired. It would have been the first vehicle-based mortar attack in Northern Ireland since 1994 when the Provisional IRA, inventor of the homemade weapons systems, began an open-ended cease-fire. Police Chief Superintendent Stephen Cargin said he was sure that IRA diehards were about to fire a mortar salvo at one of Londonderry's police stations. The mortar rounds would have been fired through a specially cut hole in the van roof.

Cargin didn't specify whether the mortars were designed to be triggered using a timer or a remote-

control switch. The minivan appeared to have been driven from across the nearby Republic of Ireland

border in County Donegal, barely 2 miles (3 kilometers) away, because the minivan had Donegal license

plates.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny, addressing a conference of British and Irish parliamentarians Monday in Donegal, lauded the police operation for preventing "a potentially disastrous attack."

And Martin McGuinness, a former Provisional IRA commander in Londonderry who today is the senior Catholic in Northern Ireland's unity government, denounced those IRA members who were still plotting gun and bomb attacks as politically irrelevant racketeers, a reference to their involvement in smuggling and extortion. He said their violence could achieve only one thing: "More people in prison."

"This is not about any attempt to advance a united Ireland," McGuinness said. □



Police forensic officers examine the scene where four live mortar bombs, far left, of picture, were intercepted by police in Northern Ireland in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, Monday, March 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

## Queen leaves hospital after stomach bug

**RAPHAEL SATTER**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — Queen Elizabeth II returned home Monday after receiving treatment for a stomach infection that prompted a brief and rare hospitalization for the 86-year-old monarch.

A smiling Elizabeth walked unassisted out of King Edward VII Hospital on Monday afternoon, bidding farewell to staff outside. She was then driven away in a motorcade.

"The queen has left the

King Edward VII's Hospital having been admitted briefly as part of the assessment of symptoms of gastroenteritis," the palace said in a short statement issued after her release.

Gastroenteritis is an inflammation of the stomach, the intestine, or both, and it is generally caused either by food poisoning or the norovirus, a common winter vomiting bug that affects several hundred thousand Britons every year but which is very rarely dangerous.

The queen canceled engagements for this week due to the illness, although she could be back to work by next week.

Doctors who weren't involved with Elizabeth's treatment believe she may have been hospitalized as a precaution.

It was the monarch's first hospitalization in 10 years, but it set off few alarm bells in Britain, where she is seen as being in excellent health. Although not as physically active as she used to be, the queen still

maintains a demanding schedule.

Unofficial court figures indicate she carried out roughly 400 official engagements in 2012 — ranging from weekly one-on-one meetings with the prime minister to gatherings of 100 or more people.

Britain's royal-obsessed tabloids all wished Elizabeth well, while the Daily Mail's royal correspondent, Richard Kay, wondered whether the country expected too much from Elizabeth. □



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## Venezuelans investigating murder of indigenous chief

C. TOOTHAKER  
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuelan authorities launched an investigation on Monday into the shooting death of an Indian chief who had repeatedly requested protection from the government as he campaigned for indigenous rights in a largely lawless and increasingly violent region.

Information Minister Ernesto Villegas said Sabino Romero, a leader of the Yukpa tribe, was fatally shot on Sunday along a highway in the western state of Zulia. Villegas said investigators suspect Romero may have been the victim of a hired killing, but authorities have not determined a motive. "The investigation is under way," Villegas said. "We cannot put forth any type of hypothesis regarding this reprehensible act."

The Prosecutor General's Office issued a statement saying that Romero reportedly was gunned down by two assailants riding a motorcycle.

The gunmen stopped a vehicle carrying Romero and sprayed it with bullets, according to prosecutors.

The indigenous leader's wife, Luisa Martinez de Romero, was wounded.

No suspects have been arrested.

Justice Minister Nestor Reverol told state television that federal police traveled from Caracas to Zulia to assist state authorities investigating Romero's murder.

Reverol suggested that owners of large swaths of land located along the Perija mountain range may

be responsible for Romero's murder.

In a message posted on the Twitter social networking site, Zulia state governor Francisco Arias, a close ally of President Hugo Chavez, announced that federal and state officials would also join forces "to advance on the distribution of land for the Yukpas." Romero had long campaigned for the rights of the Yukpa and the demarcation of their lands in the Perija mountain range bordering neighboring Colombia.

Foro por la Vida, a group of Venezuela's most prominent human rights organizations, issued a statement strongly condemning the killing, calling for "exhaustive, transparent and quick investigation" to determine who was responsible.

In a statement of its own, Foro por la Vida noted that tensions between the Yukpa and cattle ranchers have increased in recent years, occasionally leading to violence, as the Indians have settled on lands claimed by ranchers and demanded the government initiate the demarcation of their ancestral lands.

Land owners are suspected of killing several tribe members amid land-related disputes, according to human rights organizations. Rights groups said the Yukpa repeatedly denounced threats from ranchers, but authorities failed to act.

"There's a lot of tension in the region," said Lusbi Portillo, an Indian rights activist, told The Associated Press in an interview. □



A cargo ship sits tilted during heavy winds in the Atlantic Ocean near the city of Colon, Panama, Monday, March 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Arnulfo Franco)

### Panama:

## Cargo ships grounded by strong winds

PANAMA CITY, Panama

(AP) — Officials say powerful winds and waves caused by a cold front from North America have grounded at least six ships on the Caribbean coast of Panama.

No injuries or environmental damage were immediately reported, although residents reported a smell of petroleum in the vicinity of a ship that appeared to have a ruptured hull. The ships include sever-

al massive cargo vessels stranded off the city of Colon, near the Caribbean side of the Panama Canal. Officials reported 10 flooded homes and one person missing in the area due to strong weather. □



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# Middle East is reining global travel crossroads

**SCOTT MAYEROWITZ**

**AP Airlines Writer**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — It's 1 a.m. and the sprawling airport in this desert city is bustling.

Enough languages fill the air to make a United Nations translator's head spin. Thousands of fliers arrive every hour from China, Australia, India and nearly everywhere else on the planet. Few venture outside the terminal, which spans the length of 24 football fields. They come instead to catch connecting flights to somewhere else.

If it weren't for three ambitious and rapidly expanding government-owned airlines — Emirates Airline, Etihad Airways and Qatar Airways — they might have never come to the Middle East. For generations, international fliers have stopped over in London, Paris and Amsterdam. Now, they increasingly switch planes in Dubai, Doha and Abu Dhabi, making this region the new crossroads of global travel. The switch is driven by both the airports and airlines, all backed by governments that see aviation as the way to make their countries bigger players in the global economy.

Passengers are won over by their fancy new planes and top-notch service. But the real key to the airlines' incredible growth is geography. Their hubs in Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are an eight-hour flight away from two-thirds of the world's population, including a growing middle class in India, China and Southeast Asia that is eager to travel.

In the past five years, the annual number of passengers traveling through Dubai International Airport — home to Emirates — has jumped from 28.8 million to 51 million, a 77 percent increase. The airport now sees more passengers than New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

"Everybody accepts that the balance of global economic power is shifting to the east. The geographic position of the Gulf hubs makes them much more relevant today," says Wil-

lie Walsh, CEO of International Airlines Group, the parent company of British Airways and Iberia.

Persian Gulf carriers are already chipping away at some U.S. and European airlines' most lucrative business: long-haul international flights. But it's what's ahead that really has other airlines worried.

Gulf carriers hold one-third of the orders for the Boeing 777 and Airbus A380 — two of the world's largest and farthest-flying jets. That's enough planes to put

never shut down because of snow, planes don't circle waiting for their turn to land and flights aren't canceled by labor strikes as they often are in Europe.

"These guys are making the connection as seamless as possible," says John Thomas of L.E.K. Consulting. Top-paying passengers are given over-the-top service that bolsters the airlines' reputations. On some Emirates planes, first-class passengers get private suites with doors, a 23-inch television, minibar and a phone

In Canada, the government has limited the number of planes that Etihad, Emirates and Qatar can land at its airports. The move protects Air Canada, and its partner Lufthansa, which have a good business flying Canadians to India, Africa and Asia.

Separately, Lufthansa has tried to block the Gulf carriers' access to German airports. Etihad responded by purchasing 29 percent of rival Air Berlin, gaining entry to key European cities. It also owns 40 percent of



**An aircraft departure board shows Emirates airlines' schedule at the new Concourse A of Dubai airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.**  
(AP Photo/Kamran Jebreili)

70,000 passengers in the air at any given moment.

"They're being very aggressive," says Adam Weisenberg, who heads the travel and hospitality consulting group at Deloitte.

"These airlines are not going away." Modern day air routes can be traced to the post-World War II era when airlines such as Pan Am and British Airways built the first global networks. Flights from New York would cross the Atlantic, stop in Europe's capital cities to refuel and then head on to Africa, India and eventually Asia. Two generations later, those routes mostly remain. The Gulf carriers are trying to change that. And they have a lot going for them. Their hubs are in warm climates with little air-travel congestion and cheap, non-union workers. That means runways

to call flight attendants. If that's not enough, a "Do Not Disturb" sign can be switched on.

There are spa-like restrooms with heated floors and a shower.

But what really makes these Persian Gulf airlines unique is their focus on direct flights to smaller cities. The hub system they are developing is similar to what U.S. airlines did a generation ago, which allowed passengers to fly from, say, Knoxville, Tenn. to Sacramento, Calif. with just one connection.

"Forget Mumbai and New Delhi. There's another 40 secondary cities in India that I can take advantage of," says Etihad CEO James Hogan.

Airlines and governments in North America and Europe have been fighting back where they can.

Air Seychelles and smaller stakes in Virgin Australia and Irish carrier Aer Lingus.

"Working against us or trying to isolate us will not succeed because there is a very clear vision behind these airlines and we will keep on expanding," says Qatar's CEO Akbar Al Baker. There has been a recent thaw. Emirates struck a 10-year deal with Australian airline Qantas; Etihad partnered with Air France-KLM on some routes; and Qatar is joining a global airline marketing and frequent flier partnership headed up by American Airlines and British Airways.

Still, there is plenty of worry given the size of the Gulf airlines' jet orders and concerns that they are deeply subsidized by their governments.

**Continued on page 27**



**Bosnian man Mladen Popovic, 34, inside an abandoned factory in the Bosnian town of Drvar, west of Sarajevo, on Monday, March 4, 2013.**  
(AP Photo/Amel Emric)

## Broke Bosnian town is buried

**AIDA CERKEZ**

**Associated Press**

**DRVAR, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)** — If a town is dying, doesn't it at least deserve a decent funeral?

With candles, speeches and an obituary poster reading "Town of Drvar 1883 - 2013," residents symbolically laid this west Bosnian town to rest on Monday.

Two months ago, the last company in Drvar closed down, sending the town's unemployment rate skyrocketing to 80 percent — double Bosnia's average. What Bosnia's 1992-95 war has not destroyed in Drvar, the global financial crisis and the Balkan nation's interethnic bickering seems to be finishing off.

"With the last 300 people being laid off, Drvar's backbone has been broken. This symbolic funeral should serve as an eye-opener for the regional authorities," said union official Mico Rakic. "They must see that these people have nothing to eat."

This neglected town had 17,000 residents before the war, including metal, wood and textile industries that employed over 6,000 workers.

During the war, the mainly Bosnian Serb population fled when the town fell to the Bosnian Croat army.

A peace agreement divided the country in two ethnic-based regions, one run by Bosnian Serbs, the other shared by Muslim Bosniaks and Croats.

Drvar ended up in the half run by the Bosniaks and Croats — and many residents see this as a reason for the town's neglected status. □





**Already 1797 entries for the 'Kroonappels' search:**

**Last week for social organizations to enter the competition!**

## Oranje Fonds

voor sociale initiatieven

**WILLEMSTAD** (March 4, 2013) - On the occasion of the upcoming inauguration, the Oranje Fonds organizes a quest for the 'Oranje Fonds Kroonappels'. Social organizations may enter their existing initiatives for this purpose. At this moment already 1797 organizations have entered their initiatives into the databank of [www.kroonappels.com](http://www.kroonappels.com). Citizens

from all municipalities in the Netherlands and on the islands of the Caribbean part of the Kingdom can vote for the organizations they consider to be the best. This is the very last week that organizations can enter the competition. The public will then have the opportunity to vote. The three final winning organizations will receive the title of 'Oranje

Fonds Kroonappel', and will each win EURO 50.000,- as well as a bronze statue, which will be presented by the new King and Queen at the Noordeinde Palace.

Each year The Oranje Fonds crowns the most successful social organization by handing out 'Appeltjes van Oranje'. On the occasion of the inauguration, a special edition is organized. Through-

out the Kingdom, community organizations can enter existing initiatives in one of the three categories. With one more week to go, it is a pleasant surprise that so many organizations have participated.

There will be enough candidates for the public to choose from.

In Curacao and Bonaire a great many entries have already been registered. Aruba is also doing fine. As to Saba, Statia and especially St Maarten, we would like to call on all social organizations to register as yet this week at [www.kroonappels.com](http://www.kroonappels.com). Ronald van der Giessen, Director of Oranje Fonds: "We are delighted with the enthusiasm all over the Kingdom. By now this

campaign already is a great success! We wanted to do something very special for our patron and patroness and at the same time focus their attention on social organizations that truly meet our goal. We hope that many people will go and vote next week during the voting weekend of March 15, 16 and 17. By doing so they show the new King and Queen the way towards the most precious social organizations in the Kingdom."

In the Youth category organizations can propose existing initiatives that fortify the chances of youth. The Neighborhood category deals with existing initiatives or organizations that work on improving coherence among people in the neighborhoods or barrios. The last category concerns existing organizations whereby volunteers lend a Helping Hand to others in society. Organizations can enter their participation and existing initiatives till March 8 at the latest and have a go at being named a 'Kroonappel' of the Oranje Fonds.

The Oranje Fonds supports social organizations with funds, know-how and contacts. The fund invests each year about 30 million Euros to approximately 8.000 large and small community organizations. The financial means are provided by the Nationale Postcode Loterij, the Lotto and Friends and the business community. The Prince of Orange and Princess Máxima are the patron and patroness of the Fund. Visit [www.kroonappels.com](http://www.kroonappels.com) for more information about the search for the 'Kroonappels' of the Oranje Fonds. □



The patrons of the Oranje Fonds, Prince Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima, during Burendag 2012 in Uden.





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The project is built in two phases. First phase of construction is well underway on the 5-acre (2 hectares) site, which includes 84 units in two eight-story towers scheduled for completion in winter 2013. Each of these towers will contain 24 two-bedroom, two-bath units; 12 three-bedroom, three-bath units; 4 three-bedroom, four-bath duplex penthouses; and 2 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex penthouses. A third tower and a second pool are planned for phase two, which will include 40 additional units. All units are provided with porcelain tiles, Italian kitchens, stainless steel appliances, washer and dryer machines and an assigned parking space.

Presales began in 2011 on only one tower, and, in a



The project encompasses 124 whole-ownership units in three eight-story towers, all with 180° view of the Caribbean and just a few steps from the beach. On site amenities will include pools, snack-bar, mini market, landscaped sun-deck, fitness center, and full service spa and concierge service.

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Preferred Residences, an optional luxury resort exchange program that offers owners "high-touch" exchange services and lifestyle benefits tailored especially for sophisticated affluent travelers.

Blue Residences has a privileged location across the street from the beach and next to The Bubali Bird Sanctuary, one of the biggest reservoirs on the island, and is also within walking distance to Palm Beach, home of the high-rise luxury hotels with a vari-

little over a year, 80% was sold, that's why the second tower was included as part of phase one. Now with 60% sold, the project has the structure of tower one completed, six of the eight-stories on tower two completed, 60% of the facade completed, and ready to start with installation of tiles and windows. The sales office is located inside the project and is open from Monday to Saturday, Sundays by appointment. Go see the amazing view from your future unit. □

**Beauty On The Beach**

**Diana and Anabela**

Sisters Diana and Anabela are in Aruba with their parents. It is their first time in Aruba and they love it.

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# Caribbean Queen Presents Artist Belinda De Veer

**PALM BEACH** - The Caribbean Queen at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall has been honoring one local female artist who lives and creates here, every month. The Caribbean Queen program was launched since the store opened in late 2011. For the month of March 2013, local artist Belinda De Veer is Caribbean Queen, prominently displaying her beautiful and bold copper jewelry in the store.

Belinda is a well-established plastic artist here. She was born in Aruba, yet lived and studied in the U.S. for seven years, where she obtained a doctorate in pharmacy. Upon her return to the Island, her interest in visual arts and music peaked, and she followed various workshops at Ateliers '89. The workshops were given by famed teachers from the Rietveld Academy in Amsterdam, and it didn't take long before she transformed her home into an



atelier and a music studio, with room for her beloved piano, which she has been playing since the age of nine.

□ In October 2012, Belinda presented a solo exhibition titled "Paraiso den Desierto" (Paradise in the Desert), officially opened by the minister of economic affairs, social affairs, and culture, Her Excellency Michelle Hooyboer Winklaar. One of the pieces exhibited was a sculpture made of copper cables from the now-defunct

Valero oil refinery. The copper cables were amongst various recycled materials Belinda obtained from the abandoned site. The sculpture, titled "Jardin Encanta" (Enchanted Garden), received its name thanks to the magical glow of the high-grade red copper when illuminated by sunlight. Belinda also favored the green oxidation of copper and the fragile and brittle look it projects despite its durability and strength. In honor of her solo exhibi-

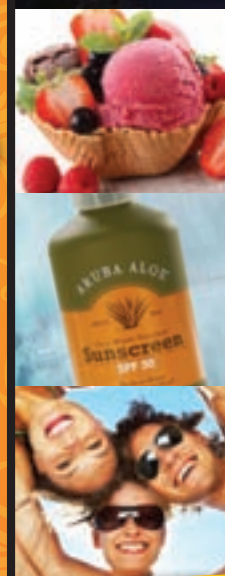
tion, Belinda also created a collection of creative and unique copper jewelry pieces to always remind the wearer and art collector of the importance of change and sustainability, pivotal for the survival of the world as we know it.

Belinda's copper jewelry is carefully crafted and finished with wax. After each use, you are kindly asked to rinse your jewelry with water to remove body oils and salts, then towel your one-of-a-kind piece dry. If the jewelry dulls or tarnishes, instructions for cleaning and coating are available in the store. While creating copper jewelry is now Belinda's favorite craft, she is also working on her music, studying with award-winning Aruban pianist Armand Simon.

Enjoy Belinda's jewelry through the month of March at Caribbean Queen, Palm Beach Plaza Mall. □

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## Tierra Del Sol Golf hosts its first Golf Tournament of 2013!

**WEST PUNT** - It was a beautiful day for golf in sunny Aruba. Tierra del Sol held their first event of the year Saturday where 11 year old junior golfer Vijay Luidens wiggled his way to the top of the leader board undetected. Young Vijay scoring 43 stableford points although very good score was not the only one. A 3-way scorecard playoff with 41 stableford points took place between Lone van der Hofstede, Ron Moser, & Cisco Quant, and capitalizing with a par



on the hardest hole #14 of Tierra del Sol Cisco Quant took second place. Third place Ron Moser with a bogey. Closest to the pin on par 3 hole # 7 was Lone van der Hofstede, and par 3 hole # 17 Matthew Brinkman.

"I think it is great to see our youth come out on the golf course and beat up the older crowds" comments Head Golf Professional Adam Williamson. "It just shows you that the future of

golf in Aruba will continue with our second generation of golfers. It's going to be an interesting year this year with all the players taking interest in the race for the Perennial Cup, everyone wants that free Membership for 2014," concluded Adam.

Next event the Wente Golf Tournament March 23rd one of many tournaments still to come at Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

*Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"*



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009



### Catch your own dinner

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You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.





## Iditarod demands mushers' tactics, tricks

A dog waits to run in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Willow, Alaska. 65 teams will be making their way through punishing wilderness toward the finish line in Nome on Alaska's western coast 1,000 miles away.

Associated Press  
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## Tracking Tiger



Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the second hole during the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.  
Associated Press

**Nicklaus: Tiger 'better get going' on major chase**

AP Golf Writer  
PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Tiger Woods was long gone from PGA National when Jack Nicklaus settled into his seat in the NBC Sports tower. Woods' week at the Honda Classic included two lost balls, four shots in the water and 15 shots out of the bunkers. He made four double bogeys, was never better than 3-under par at any point and was under par for only 26 out of the 72 holes he played. None of this was enough to alarm Nicklaus. In what now sounds like a broken record, Nicklaus maintains that records are made to be broken, including his gold standard of 18 professional majors.

Continued on Page 19



# ROLLING THUNDER

**OKC hold off L.A. Clippers to win 108-104**

Oklahoma City Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) dunks against the Los Angeles Clippers in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 3, 2013. Durant scored 35 points as the Thunder won 108-104.

Associated Press  
Page 19w



# Arduous Iditarod demands mushers' tactics, tricks

**RACHEL D'ORO**  
**Associated Press**

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— Here's one proven way to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race: Let others take the early lead in the 1,000-mile (1,610-kilometer) trek to Alaska's wind-scoured western coast.

That approach might seem counterintuitive to the novice fan of the famous sled dog race. Running the Iditarod is as simple and straightforward as hitching 16 dogs in front of a sled and bolting off into the snowy horizon, right?

Uh, no. Just ask some top mushers. Lagging behind to let dogs conserve their energy is among strategies employed by top mushers. But holding back can also backfire for various reasons, if the timing is miscalculated, for example, or a fierce blizzard strikes at the wrong time.

Four-time champion Martin Buser had the early lead Monday, pulling into the scenic Rainy Pass checkpoint at 5:38 a.m., spending just two minutes there

before getting back on the trail. He was followed by another musher with impressive Iditarod credentials — four-time champion Lance Mackey. He pulled into the Finger Lake checkpoint on Sunday night, also spending just a couple minutes resting before heading out again. For defending champion Dallas Seavey, patience and an unwavering trust in the capability of his team paid off last year, when he became the Iditarod's youngest winner ever at age 25. He didn't charge to the front until later in the race, but still reached the finish line in Nome an hour before his closest competitor. To rest some of his older veteran dogs more, Seavey sometimes carried them in his sled for long stretches. "It takes an uncommon amount of confidence in your dog team to watch those front-runners get away from you," said Seavey, who turned 26 Monday.

Rushing on, however, can exhaust a team to the

point of losing. Two Rivers musher Allen Moore, who is running the Iditarod, just won the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race in February by choosing to rest his dogs. His main rival, last year's

rest would help me to be faster. It's like this in the Iditarod, too. We're just gambling on things we think will work." And then there's the winning strategy of deception, as employed in 2008 by Mackey. Mackey

123 miles (199 kilometers) from the Nome finish line. Mackey had arrived at the checkpoint three minutes ahead King and made a big show of settling in for a nap. King's team settled in, too. But Mackey had told



**Mitch Seavey walks to the head of his team at the starting line for the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Willow, Alaska. 65 teams will be making their way through punishing wilderness toward the finish line in Nome on Alaska's western coast 1,000 miles away.**

**Associated Press**

Quest winner Hugh Neff, chose to run.

"He gambled that he could go," Moore said. "I was gambling that this

and four-time Iditarod Jeff King were running neck and neck, prompting Mackey to pull off a stunt at the Elim checkpoint —

checkpoint volunteers to wake him in an hour. He sneaked out of the checkpoint 70 minutes ahead King and won the race. □

# Cuba crushes China 12-0 at World Baseball Classic



**Cuba's first baseman Jose Abreu hits a grand slam off China's Liu Yu in the fifth inning of their World Baseball Classic first round game in Fukuoka, Japan, Monday, March 4, 2013.**

**JIM ARMSTRONG**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**FUKUOKA, Japan (AP)** — Cuba clobbered China 12-0 on Monday to improve to 2-0 in Group A of the World Baseball Classic and advance to the second round.

Infielder Jose Abreu drove in five runs, including a grand slam in the fifth inning at Fukuoka Dome. The

game was called under the tournament's mercy rule after the seventh inning.

Throughout the game, Cuba displayed the type of firepower that makes it one of the title contenders. "We're very happy to have two wins from two games," Cuba manager Victor Mesa said. "But we are not 100 percent yet, we have

some minor issues and I feel we are lacking something but we are happy to be 2-0."

Alexei Bell hit a towering two-run homer to left to make it 4-0 in the fourth and Alfredo Despaigne put the result beyond doubt in the same inning when he doubled on a sharp ground ball to left, scoring Jose Fernandez and Frederick Cepeda to make it 6-0. Fernandez singled in two more runs in the fifth before Abreu's grand slam.

Cuba starter Danny Betancourt picked up the win after striking out eight and giving up only one hit in 4-2/3 innings. China starter Li Xin gave up five runs on eight hits over 3-1/3 innings to take the loss.

Cuba next faces Japan on Wednesday. Cuba's win over China also means that Japan advances to the March 8-12 second round at Tokyo Dome.

Bell said it will be a lot tougher to score runs

against Japan's solid pitching staff.

**South Korea beats Australia 6-0**

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)**

— Kim Hyun-soo batted in two runs and starting pitcher Seung Song allowed just two hits over four innings Monday as South Korea blanked Australia 6-0 in Group B of the World Baseball Classic.

The win lifted the South Koreans to 1-1 in the group and set up a crucial game against host Taiwan on Tuesday. Australia fell to 0-2.

With a 2-0 record, the Taiwanese remain in a commanding position to advance to the next round in Tokyo. The Netherlands are also 1-1 after stunning South Korea, but must beat Australia on Tuesday.



**South Korea's starter Song Seung-jun delivers a pitch against Australia's shortstop James Beresford, not in photo, in the first inning of their World Baseball Classic first round game at the Intercontinental Baseball Stadium in Taichung, Taiwan, Monday, March 4, 2013.**

**Associated Press**

South Korea put in a much-improved performance after an uncharacteristically sloppy display against the Dutch, when it made four errors and lost 5-0. □



# Ravens QB Flacco signs NFL's richest contract

DAVID GINSBURG

AP Sports Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Maryland

(AP) — Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco signed a new contract Monday worth \$120.6 million over six years, making him the highest paid player in NFL history.

The Super Bowl MVP will receive a \$29 million signing bonus and \$52 million in guaranteed money. He will be paid \$51 million over the first two years of the deal.

"It's not really about the money, it's about that respect," Flacco said minutes after signing.

The 28-year-old Flacco is the first starting quarterback in NFL history to make the playoffs in each of his first five seasons. He's led the Ravens to nine wins

over that span, tying Tom Brady for most among quarterbacks in the first five years of a career.

Flacco threw 11 touchdown passes and no interceptions during the recent postseason and led the Ravens to a 34-31 Super Bowl win over San Francisco.

"He's a significant reason we've been to the playoffs five years in a row, played in three AFC championship games, and now, we are Super Bowl champs with Joe as MVP," Ravens general manager Ozzie Newsome said. Flacco's performance this past off-season almost certainly helped him receive his record-breaking contract, but Flacco said, "I think I'm an asset to this team. ... The fact that we won the Super Bowl just comes with that.

If we didn't win the Super Bowl this year, I still think I'm worth the same."

By signing Monday, Flacco avoided receiving the franchise tag, which would have hindered the Ravens' salary cap in 2013.

"I know we have a lot of good players on the team, and I love to play with those guys, so hopefully it works out very good for the organization and we can keep as many people as we need," he said.

Flacco turned down a hefty contract before the 2012 season, and his decision turned out to be a wise one.

"It was never necessarily about the money and all that, but it was definitely about earning that respect and feeling like I was respected around here,"



Baltimore Ravens quarterback Joe Flacco speaks at a news conference at the team's practice facility in Owings Mills, Md., Monday, March 4, 2013.

Associated Press

he said. "The fact that we got it done and they have made me (the highest-paid player in NFL history)

definitely makes me feel good about how I played and how they feel about me." □

## Tracking Tiger

Continued on Page 19

"I still think he'll break my record," Nicklaus said Sunday. "Tiger's talent, at 37 ... it's not that old. I won four after that. They were spread out. It wasn't that difficult. I don't think for Tiger to get four or five more — or six or seven — is that big a stretch."

Woods, of course, has been stuck on 14 since winning the U.S. Open in a playoff at Torrey Pines in 2008. Perhaps of more interest than his 0-for-14 streak since then is that he has not seriously contended in any of the majors since giving up a two-shot lead to Y.E. Yang at the 2009 PGA Championship. Sure, he was tied for the lead at the turn at the Masters two years ago. He was in the penultimate group at Pebble Beach in the 2010 U.S. Open, as he was at Royal Lytham & St. Annes last summer.

But when was the last time Woods had a realistic chance in the final hour of a major?

Even during his previous two droughts in the majors (both 0-for-10) he had serious chances to win at Royal Birkdale in 1998 and Pinehurst in 1999, and then at Hazeltine in 2002 and Royal St. George's in 2003.

The Masters starts in 38 days, and Woods will be among the top two favorites to win a fifth green jacket, as he should be.

It's foolish to suggest 37 is old, even on a left knee that has gone through as many surgeries as Woods has won green jackets. Nonetheless, with age time seems to go faster.

"I still think he can do it," Nicklaus said. "But that said, he has still got to do it. He hasn't won one in five years. He had better get with it if he's going to."

Even after the road to 18 majors went over a cliff at the end of 2009 — and it took Woods two years to recover from the public embarrassment of his infidelities, his injuries and yet another coaching change — Nicklaus stayed consistent in the belief that his own record will fall.

— "If Tiger is going to pass my record, this is a big year for him in that regard," Nicklaus said at the start of the 2010 season, alluding to a major rotation that included Pebble Beach and St. Andrews.

— "I'm surprised that he has not bounced back by now," Nicklaus said in March 2011. "He's got such a great work ethic. He's so determined to do what he wants to do. I'm very surprised that he has not



Tiger Woods tees off on the fourth tee during the final round of the Honda Classic golf tournament on Sunday, March 3, 2013, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

popped back. I still think he'll break my record."

— "I don't know whether he's going to continue to beat guys ... whether these guys have all learned how to play or they all learned how to win, they're probably no longer afraid of Tiger," Nicklaus said in March 2012. "In my opinion, I still think Tiger will regain what he does.

He will come back and play very, very well. Whether he breaks my record is another issue. I still think he will." Nicklaus never went through a major championship drought this severe, except for the 20 majors he played between the 1980

PGA Championship at Oak Hill and his 18th and final major at the 1986 Masters when he was 46.

It's too early to make a conclusion about Woods' 2013 season.

One week at the Honda Classic is not much of a barometer, nor is one day at Dove Mountain for the Match Play Championship. His game is good enough to win anywhere on any golf course. It's good enough to win majors. It's good enough to return No. 1, perhaps even before the Masters. The intimidation and aura of Woods might not be what it was, but there were traces of it

the way he rallied at the Memorial last year and dominated at Torrey Pines this year.

Still, it's the inconsistency that keeps Woods from looking to be the threat he once was. When Nicklaus was at about the same stage in his career, it was not unusual for him to miss the cut or have a bad week. But his results were never this up and down. At age 37, the Golden Bear had 14 straight finishes in the top 10 on the PGA Tour. Look at the start to Woods' season. He missed the cut in Abu Dhabi, won the next week by four shots at Torrey Pines, and in his next stroke-play tournament, he never broke par and tied for 37th.

Look at last year.

He won twice in five starts, at Bay Hill and Memorial. In the three tournaments in between, he tied for 40th at Masters and The Players Championship and missed the cut at Quail Hollow. He gave up a 36-hole lead at the U.S. Open, and then won his next tournament. And then he missed the cut at The Greenbrier Classic. About the only consistency comes from his answers.

"It's not that far off," Woods said when asked to compare his game at the Honda Classic with Torrey Pines. □



# NBA Capsules

## Thunder holds on beat Clippers as leaders clash

**The Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kevin Durant scored 35 points, Russell Westbrook had 29 points and 10 assists, and Oklahoma City held off a late rally by Los Angeles in a matchup of two of the West's best teams.

Serge Ibaka added 16 points as the Thunder ended a three-game road skid, bouncing back less than 48 hours after losing at Denver.

They also completed a season sweep of Los Angeles, which is chasing Oklahoma City and NBA-best San Antonio out West.

Chris Paul scored 26 points, and Blake Griffin and Jamal Crawford added 20 apiece for the Clippers, whose four-game winning streak ended with their third loss to the Thunder this season.

**HEAT 99, KNICKS 93**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — LeBron James had 29 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists, and the Miami Heat tied a franchise record with their 14th straight victory, rallying to beat the New York Knicks 99-93 on Sunday.

Dwyane Wade added 20 points for the Heat, who had to overcome a 16-point deficit to beat the Knicks for the first time in three tries this season. Chris Bosh bounced back from a dismal first half to finish with 16 points.

The defending NBA champions won their sixth straight on the road by controlling the final minutes against a team that had a pair of 20-point victories over them this season and looked ready to run them out of the building again. But James shook off a third-quarter leg injury and was back in top form by the finish, putting it away by coming up with a steal and throwing down a dunk with 23 seconds left.

Carmelo Anthony scored 32 points for the Knicks, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

**LAKERS 99, HAWKS 98**



Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (32) shoots as Oklahoma City Thunder center Kendrick Perkins (5) defends in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Los Angeles, Sunday, March 3, 2013.

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Kobe Bryant scored 11 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter and hit the go-ahead layup with 9 seconds left, leading the Lakers back to .500 for the first time in more than two months.

Steve Blake stole Josh Smith's final pass in the waning seconds for the Lakers (30-30), who blew a 16-point lead in the second half before Bryant scored their last six points.

After Bryant scored the Lakers' final basket while driving directly at Smith, Blake swiped Smith's desperation pass from underneath Los Angeles' basket. Bryant threw the ball high in the air to run out the clock on Los Angeles' seventh straight home victory over the Hawks since 2006. Al Horford scored 24 points and Smith had 19 for the Hawks.

**PACERS 97, BULLS 92**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — David West scored 31 points and George Hill added 21, leading Indiana past Chicago in a Central Division showdown.

The Pacers (38-22) have won seven of their last eight games, going 6-1 since the All-Star break, and hold a

four-game lead over second-place Chicago.

The Bulls were led by Marco Belinelli and Jimmy Butler, who each had 20 points for a team that was missing four important players with injuries.

Chicago fell behind late in the first quarter and spent most of the rest of the game trying to play catch-up.

The Bulls finally tied the score at 72 on Luol Deng's 8-footer early in the fourth and again at 80 when Butler made two free throws with 7:04 left.

**SPURS 114, PISTONS 75**

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — Manu Ginobili scored 17 points, Tim Duncan had 16 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio routed Detroit despite playing without All-Star point guard Tony Parker.

In other NBA games it was Miami 99, New York 93; Oklahoma City 108, L.A. Clippers 104; Sacramento 119, Charlotte 83; Memphis 108, Orlando 82; Washington 90, Philadelphia 87; Houston 136, Dallas 103; San Antonio 114, Detroit 75; Indiana 97, Chicago 92; and L.A. Lakers 99, Atlanta 98. □



Portland Timbers midfielder Sal Zizzo, right, steals the ball away from New York Red Bulls forward Thierry Henry during the second half of an MLS soccer game in Portland, Ore., Sunday, March 3, 2013. The game ended in a 3-3 tie.

**Associated Press**

# MLS Capsules

## Galaxy rout Fire 4-0 in opener

**The Associated Press**

**CARSON, California (AP)** — Mike Magee scored three times and the Los Angeles Galaxy began the post-David Beckham era with a season-opening 4-0 victory over the Chicago Fire on Sunday. The two-time defending MLS champions got one goal from Magee in the first half and two more in the second half. Magee volleyed home a deflected cross in the 38th minute, scored from Robbie Keane's feed in the 68th, and knocked in a rebound in the 74th. It was the Chicago-born Magee's first career hat trick and second multi-goal game in 11 MLS seasons. Keane scored the finale on an 80th-minute corner kick. The Galaxy, transitioning to a new style of attack after Beckham's departure to French club Paris Saint-Germain, dictated most of the action in a game played largely between the 18-yard boxes.

**PORTLAND TIMBERS 3, NEW YORK RED BULLS 3**

**PORTLAND, Oregon (AP)** — Portland overcame two early goals by Fabian Espindola to forge a draw with New York.

Espindola, a veteran acquired in the offseason from Real Salt Lake, scored in the ninth and 24th minutes, while Jamison Olave, also obtained in the trade with RSL, added a goal in the 28th minute.

Argentine midfielder Diego Valeri scored his first goal for the Timbers. Darlington Nagbe's goal in the second half pulled Portland closer before an own goal that bounced off of Olave in the 83rd minute tied it.

**SAN JOSE EARTHQUAKES 0, REAL SALT LAKE 2**

**SANTA CLARA, California (AP)** — Alvaro Saborio scored twice in the final 20 minutes and Real Salt Lake kept defending league MVP Chris Wondolowski off the score sheet. Saborio broke open a scoreless match in the 71st minute when he outraced two San Jose defenders to reach a pass that Joao Plata looped over the Earthquakes' back line. RSL's leading scorer in each of the last three seasons then finished with a strong right foot from 17 yards, beating San Jose goalkeeper Jon Busch to the near post.

RSL got its insurance goal in the 85th minute when Kyle Beckerman — making his 300th career MLS appearance — found Saborio unmarked in the Quakes' box. The Costa Rican international swiveled at 11 yards to tuck a left-footed shot inside the far post.

RSL goalkeeper Nick Rimando made two saves for his 100th MLS shutout.

In other MLS games it was Los Angeles 4, Chicago 0; Portland 3, New York 3; and San Jose 0, Real Salt Lake 2. □



# Hingis to enter International Tennis Hall of Fame

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Five-time Grand Slam singles champion Martina Hingis leads the 2013 class for the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

The other new members of the Hall announced Monday are Cliff Drysdale, Charlie Pasarell and Ion Tiriac. Australian player Thelma Coyne Long's election was announced earlier.

Hingis won 15 major titles, including nine in women's doubles and one in mixed. The first came at Wimbledon in women's doubles in 1996 at 15 years, 9 months, making her the youngest Grand Slam champion in tennis history.

The Swiss star also was the youngest woman to reach No. 1 in the WTA singles rankings, getting there in March 1997 at 16 1/2, and spent a total of 209 weeks in the top spot. Hingis spent 35 weeks at No. 1 in doubles, too.

"She obviously had a Hall of Fame career," said Serena Williams, who beat Hingis in the 1999 U.S. Open final. "She achieved so much at such an early age and did

so much for the sport, inspired me a lot to play."

In 1997, Hingis won singles titles at three of the four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open — and lost in the French Open final. She was honored as the WTA Tour Player of the Year and AP Female Athlete of the Year. Hingis, often troubled by foot injuries, retired for the second time in 2007, when she received a two-year suspension for testing positive for cocaine at Wimbledon. Hingis denied taking the drug but did not appeal the ruling.

She finished with 43 titles in singles and 37 in doubles. Her singles record was 548-133. Hingis also led Switzerland to its only Fed Cup final in 1998 before losing to Spain. Hingis was elected in the recent player category, while Drysdale, Pasarell and Tiriac entered the Hall in the contributor category. Two nominees who were not elected: 1991 Wimbledon champion Michael Stich and Helena Sukova. One of Sukova's

nine Grand Slam titles in women's doubles came at Wimbledon in 1996 with Hingis.

first telecast of the sport — U.S. vs. Argentina in Davis Cup — in 1979.

Pasarell played on UCLA's

Following his own playing career, which included the 1970 French Open men's doubles title, Tiriac has



In this July 12, 2012 file photo, Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, speaks during a news conference before World TeamTennis action against the Washington Kastles in Washington. Associated Press

Drysdale played in the 1960s and 1970s and reached a No. 4 ranking. He then helped start the ATP men's tour, serving as its first president from 1972-74. He has been an ESPN tennis announcer since its

NCAA championship team and was a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team. Like Drysdale, he was a key figure at the start of the ATP. Pasarell was long associated with the tournament at Indian Wells, Calif.

held key roles as a coach, player manager and tournament promoter. His most noted client was Hall of Fame member Boris Becker. The induction ceremony is July 13 in Newport, Rhode Island. □

## Gulbis wins second Delray Beach title

**DELRAY BEACH, Florida (AP)** — Qualifier Ernests Gulbis beat Edouard Roger-Vasselin 7-6 (3), 6-3 on Sunday in one of the more unlikely finals in recent ATP Tour history, winning the Delray Beach International Championships.

The 109th-ranked Gulbis, who also won the tournament in 2010, is the first qualifier to reach a final this season. The previous qualifier to win an ATP World Tour title was Jarkko Nieminen last year in Sydney.

Gulbis also became the third qualifier to win the title at Delray Beach, joining Kei Nishikori (2008) and Andrew Ilie (1998). The Latvian is set to move way up when the next rankings are released.

"I feel really good about it and I just talked to my coach (Gunther Bresnik)



Ernests Gulbis, from Latvia, reacts after winning a game at the Delray Beach, Fla. International Tennis Championship tournament, Sunday, March 3, 2013. Gulbis defeated Edouard Roger-Vasselin 7-6, 6-3.

Associated Press

and he's happy, I'm happy, everybody is happy," said Gulbis, who has been ranked as high as No. 21 in February 2011. "We didn't think that it was going to happen so fast.

"My coach thought I wouldn't go back into the top 100 until around April." Gulbis improved to 3-0 in ATP finals. He also won in Los Angeles in 2011. □

## Rafael Nadal ready to test knee on hard courts

**RACHEL COHEN**  
AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Rafael Nadal plans to test his fragile knee on the hard courts at Indian Wells to determine his playing schedule for the rest of the spring.

The 11-time Grand Slam champion will play an exhibition against Juan Martin del Potro later Monday, his first chance to compete at Madison Square Garden. But when he heads to the hard courts for an official match later this week at Indian Wells, he doesn't know how his left knee will respond.

Just the fact that he's planning to play in California is encouraging for Nadal in his comeback from injury. A week ago, he wasn't sure if his knee could handle it. Then came his performance at the Mexican Open — capped by a



Spain's Rafael Nadal removes the bandage from his knee after beating Spain's David Ferrer in the final round match of the Mexico Open tennis tournament in Acapulco, Mexico, Saturday, March 2, 2013.

Associated Press

dominating victory over fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, the world's fourth-ranked player, in Saturday's final. "I started to feel free to

run to every ball," Nadal said at a news conference Monday. "That's fantastic for me."

Nadal's first three tournaments back after missing seven months have been on clay — the best surface even before the injury for the seven-time French Open champ.

The hard courts are far more punishing on his body, and he has talked about perhaps playing on them less.

Still, he'd like to stick with the same full event schedule as in past years. Indian Wells, with an expected field that boasts the top men's players in the world, will help determine whether that is possible.

"That will be a big test for me," Nadal said. "Today I know I can play on clay; that's a very important thing to know for me." □



# Eat Smart: Feeding a healthy exercise routine

**CAROLINE MURRAY**

© 2013 Albany Times Union

While working out at the gym, you can find yourself surrounded by a body-builder, a long-distance runner or a mother whose new year's resolution is to shed 10 pounds.

When training for a goal, whether it's fitting into your favorite pair of jeans again or competing in the 2016 Summer Olympics, it's important to approach your fitness goals in a safe and healthy manner.

Along with exercise, consuming the right foods and liquids can help to enhance your performance, while supporting your body's nutritional needs.

Unfortunately, there's no "one size fits all" diet, no matter how much you search Google.

How, then, can you make sure you're properly nourishing your body, while achieving the results you desire?

We spoke with certified dietitian Leslie Bonci, who knows a thing or two about nutrition. She works with high-profile clients, including several in Pittsburgh (the Steelers, the Penguins, the Riverhounds soccer team and the Pittsburgh Ballet) and has also worked with the U.S. Olympic canoe and kayaking teams.

We compiled a list of guidelines for athletes and the rest of us to follow, in order to make the most of each workout.

It's all about recovery in the game of football: Football players need to fuel their bodies, before, during and after practices.

A huge portion of training takes place in the gym. Bonci recommends that players ingest 20 grams of

preworkout snack. "Not a pepperoni pizza," says Bonci; more like a half banana and glass of milk.

It's tempting to grab an energy drink or soda to amp up your body for a long drill, but both contain too much sugar and stay in your stomach for double the time, Bonci says. Drinking a standard-size water bottle (20 ounces) or sports drink one hour before a

player should eat a small meal that is high in protein and carbohydrates, at least 15 to 30 minutes afterward.

Too exhausted to chew? A glass of chocolate milk will work, too. And it's a tasty treat.

With hockey, energy levels matter: During a hockey game or practice, no player is caught leisurely skating across the ice, Bonci says. There is so much energy being burned during this high-contact sport you can practically see the steam radiating off their skates.

Since you are constantly moving and perpetually sweating, Bonci suggests investing in a sports drink over a water bottle, to keep hydrated and replace the electrolytes that are missing. Also bring a sports goo or honey stick with you, to get an extra boost when needed.

What's just as crucial to gulping down fluids is eating the right proportions of food.

"What's really essential for hockey players is making sure they're devoting at least one-third of their plate to fruits/veggies, one-third protein, and one-third grains or starchy veggies such as potatoes or corn," says Bonci.

In soccer, be aware of your surroundings: Similar to hockey, soccer quickly uses up the player's strength and endurance. The difference is the environment they play in.

Soccer is mainly an outdoors sport; rain or shine, the players go toe-to-toe during almost any weather condition. The sun often is beating down their necks, and it's very easy to become dehydrated. Players need to keep plenty of fluids at their disposal.

Since players often tend to stay on the field for long periods of time, it is beneficial to consume a lot of carbohydrates beforehand. The body often needs this as a source of energy to feed off of.

In ballet, lighter is better: Bonci admits a huge issue for dancers is having them understand they need to eat certain foods in order to perform according to professional standards.

A huge part of a ballet is the aesthetics, and most dancers do not want to hop around the stage with a "bulging belly." Carbohydrates usually cause this bloating effect, which is why she recommends a modest amount of starches in their diet.

To avoid meals that are too heavy, dancers should eat a large amount of protein, fruits and vegetables such as an open-face sandwich that's low in carbohydrates, but still satisfying. They should not be skipping meals or substituting coffee for food, which is an unfortunate habit of some dancers.

"They want to shine on stage and have to put fuel in their bodies in order to make that happen," said Bonci.

Fuel up for crew, kayaking or canoeing: If anyone took crew in high school, they know the hours are daunting. Waking up each morning at 4 a.m. to hit the waters, is not the most pleasant way to start the day.

A lot of rowers tend to skip breakfast, simply because they do not have an appetite at this time. □



**When beginning an exercise routine, it's important to approach your fitness goals in a safe and healthy manner. Along with exercise, consuming the right foods and liquids can help to enhance your performance, while supporting your body's nutritional needs.** (Handout Photo)

protein one hour prior to intense weightlifting. Half a protein bar or a glass of milk will certainly prepare your body without making you bloated or uncomfortable during a workout. She also suggests incorporating carbohydrates into this

practice will keep the player fueled through a two-hour training period.

To recover quickly and efficiently from these strenuous exercises, Bonci has a 15-minute rule she advises her clients to follow. Similar to the preworkout snack, a

## First Lady continues push for health and nutrition

**JENNIFER STEINHAUER**

© 2013 New York Times

**CLINTON, Miss.** – To her admirers, Michelle Obama is the patron saint of quinoa, charged with reducing the nation's dangerous obesity rate and helping children eat better. To her detractors, she is the fun-killer, possessed with crushing America's cookies.

But either way, Obama took her message once again to the road and made it clear that her campaign for healthy school lunches and fewer fat children will not be deterred.

"Now is truly the time to double down on our efforts," she told state officials as recently as last week at an elementary school in

Mississippi, where she also entertained a giant group of students with a cooking contest in the cafeteria between school chefs and the celebrity food personality Rachael Ray.

Signaling that her "Let's Move" campaign, now in its third year, will remain a central part of her own policy agenda, Obama proceeded on a three-city tour to promote new federal school lunch policies, beginning in Mississippi, where childhood obesity rates have fallen even as the overall rate remains the highest in the nation.

In 2011, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that nearly 40 percent of Mississippi residents were obese. But in 2007,

with the blessing of Gov. Haley Barbour, the state began to attack the problem with legislation intended to reduce fat in school lunches and to increase exercise programs.

From 2005 to 2011, the state saw a 13.3 percent decline in obesity among elementary school children, according to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Similar new federal standards for school lunches were set by the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act, which began in the current school year. Promoting that federal legislation, which has been relatively hard fought, is a centerpiece of the first lady's campaign.

"Your schools did hard

work, replaced their fryers with steamers, hallelujah, and started serving more fruits and vegetables and whole grains," Obama said. She added, "The results of these efforts speak for themselves."

She continued her tour in Chicago, where she announced a physical fitness initiative in schools with tennis star Serena Williams and Arne Duncan, the secretary of education. From there, Obama continued on to Missouri to promote adjustments in the food offerings at Wal-Mart and discuss changes to other food businesses. She made the journey with Sam Kass, the senior policy adviser for her White House healthy food initiative. □



# Wireless connections creep into everyday things

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) —

A car that tells your insurance company how you're driving. A bathroom scale that lets you chart your weight on the Web. And a meter that warns your air conditioner when electricity gets more expensive.

Welcome to the next phase of the wireless revolution.

The first wave of wireless was all about getting people to talk to each other on cellphones.

The second will be getting things to talk to each other, with no humans in between. So-called machine-to-machine communication is getting a lot of buzz at this year's wireless trade show. Some experts believe these connections will outgrow the traditional phone business in less than a decade.

"I see a whole set of industries, from energy to cars to health to logistics and transportation, being totally redesigned," said Vittorio Colao, the CEO of Vodafone Group PLC, in a keynote speech at the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. The British cellphone company has vast international interests, including its 45 percent ownership stake in Verizon Wireless.

Companies are promising that machine-to-machine, or M2M, technology will deliver all manner of services, from the prosaic to the world-changing. At U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc.'s booth here at the show, there's a coffeepot that can be ordered to start brewing from a tablet computer, or an Internet-connected alarm clock. A former president of Costa Rica is also at the show, talking about how M2M can save massive amounts of greenhouse gases by making energy use more efficient — enough to bring mankind halfway to the goal of halting global warming.

The M2M phenomenon is part of the larger drive to create an "Internet of Things" — a global network that not only links comput-



In this Feb. 26, 2013, photo man is pictured inside of a Car Volvo V60 P-IH at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

ers, tablets and phones but that connects everything from bikes to washing machines to thermostats. Machina Research, a British firm, believes there will be 12.5 billion "smart" con-

nects, has an ingenious solution for battery-powered devices: a "fake" AA battery that houses a smaller AAA battery in an electronic jacket. It can be placed in a battery compartment

the price can come down to \$10, but that's still a non-trivial cost, and symptomatic of the high price of building out the Internet of Everything. For devices that need to connect at

faster data connections, enabling services like remote engine diagnostics and upgrades to the control software. AT&T Inc., which has been aggressive about getting into the M2M business, is ousting Verizon Wireless as the network provider for OnStar.

Colao, the CEO of Vodafone, gave an example of another "smart" car application that might seem intrusive to some: the company has been trying out a service in Italy that lets an auto insurance company know how much a car is being used, and charges premiums accordingly. It can also score the driver based on his or her driving style, and give pointers on how to handle the car more safely.

Cellular connections are creeping into smaller, cheaper devices. Ecootra, which rents out electric scooters by the day in Spain, wants to connect



In this Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, photo, a woman sits on an eCooltra Connected electric scooters at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

nected devices, excluding phones, PCs and tablets, in the world in 2020, up from 1.3 billion today. But how does this transformation happen, and who stands to profit?

First, the devices have to be able to connect. That's not a trivial undertaking, especially considering that people don't upgrade washing machines or renovate their homes as often as they change cellphones and PCs. One company at the show, a Los Angeles-based startup named Teth-

erCell, has an ingenious solution for battery-powered devices: a "fake" AA battery that houses a smaller AAA battery in an electronic jacket. It can be placed in a battery compartment with other batteries. Within a distance of 80 feet, some smartphones and tablets can then signal the "battery" to turn the device on or off. For instance, parents whose kids have a lot of noisy toys can turn all of them off with touch of a single button. A fire alarm could send a text-message warning that its battery is running low, rather than blaring an audio signal.

Unfortunately, a TetherCell from the first production run costs \$35. Co-founder Kellan O'Connor believes



In this Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, photo, a man checks his device in front of a banner "Internet of Everything" at the Mobile World Congress, the world's largest mobile phone trade show, in Barcelona, Spain.

Associated Press

long range over a cellular network, the cost of radio components alone ranges from \$10 to \$70, according to analyst Dan Shey of ABI Research.

That's not expensive in the context of some big-ticket items, like cars, which have been forerunners when it comes to non-phone wireless connections. General Motors Corp. started equipping cars with OnStar wireless calling and assistance services in the mid-90s. At the show, it announced it is updating the service for

them to the Internet, which would let renters figure out through their phones where there's a scooter for rent and how much of a charge is in its battery. The feature is perfect for quick, impromptu rentals by the hour.

Adding "smarts" to the scooters in the shape of a cellular modem would turn the company from a conventional rental service to a "scooter-sharing" business, much like car-sharing services like Zipcar. □



# Hess, under pressure, says will exit retail business

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hess is getting out of the gas station business and ridding itself of its energy trading and marketing businesses, as it shifts its focus further into exploration and production. The company will also nominate a slate of six independent directors to its board, replacing six that already hold seats. The announcement arrives about a month after the hedge fund Elliott Management, one of the company's largest shareholders, accused the board of

"poor oversight," and said that the company's management was responsible for more than a "decade of failures." Elliott, which holds a 4 percent stake in Hess, is pushing to seat five outsiders on the board. But Hess rejected Elliott's nominees in a letter to shareholders Monday, accusing the firm of trying to disrupt progress it has already made in reshaping itself. It said that Elliott hasn't taken into account how much company shares have risen since it

began to shed previous business models. Hess said the nominees chosen by Elliott would effectively dismantle the company. Hess shares fell sharply after the recession, as did shares of most energy companies, but the stock began to rebound last summer and on Monday, they hit their highest levels almost two years. Shedding the green and white gas stations that stretch from New Hampshire to Florida, the vast majority of which are owned

by Hess rather than franchisees, will allow the company to broaden exploration and production capabilities. Spokesman Jon Pepper would not elaborate further on the sale. Hess, based in New York, has already announced the sale of U.S. oil storage terminals and plans to close a New Jersey refinery as it exits the volatile refining business. Other energy companies are doing much the same, focusing the booming domestic drilling and also high-risk drilling operations at deep-water drill sites.

Murphy Oil, ConocoPhillips and Marathon Oil Corp. have all split off their refining businesses in recent years to focus on exploration and production. Elliott has said it wants Hess to boost shareholder value through various means, including a potential spin-off of the oil company's holdings in North Dakota's Bakken shale-oil field. Elliott officials didn't immediately return an email sent through the firm's website. Hess shares rose \$2.67, or 4 percent, to \$69.21 in midday trading. □

# HSBC profit slumps after money-laundering fine

**GREGORY KATZ**  
**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The HSBC banking group saw its net profits drop nearly 17 percent in 2012, as it counted the cost of a hefty U.S. fine it paid to settle money-laundering claims. But earnings remained robust at \$13.5 billion as Asian businesses performed well. HSBC paid nearly \$2 billion last year to settle a money-laundering case involving illicit drug money from Mexico brought by U.S. and U.K. officials. The bank's head of compliance resigned from his position and apologized to the Senate investigation last year after it was found HSBC had lax controls that exposed it to money-laundering and terrorist financing. The bank also paid a \$1.4 billion fine in the U.K. for improperly selling financial products to customers and



**A bus featuring a hollywood movie advertisement drives past the HSBC's Hong Kong headquarters in central district of Hong Kong Monday, March 4, 2013.**

(AP Photo/Vincent Yu)

also wrote down the value of its own debt by \$5.2 billion. Investors were disappointed by the figures, sending the company's shares

down nearly 3 percent to 7.06 pounds in early trading in London. The bank's net profit of \$14.03 billion was 16.5 percent down on the same period last year. However, the bank noted that, not counting one-time charges, its "underlying profit" before tax rose 18 percent to \$16.4 billion, as it had to write off fewer bad loans. That suggests it is being hurt less by the economic downturn that has hit its European and U.S. units in recent years. Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver said the bank has made important progress in focusing on its more profitable businesses and reducing costs. HSBC has cut

staff by about 10 percent. "In terms of the broader strategy that we set out in 2011, we've delivered most of what we promised," he said in a statement. "We have made HSBC easier to manage and control by disposing of non-core businesses." The bank, which showed substantial growth in its commercial and retail departments, increased its dividend payout by 10 percent for the full year compared with 2011. Joe Rundle, head of trading at ETX Capital, said the decline in the company's share price on Monday is likely to be brief now that the bank has dealt with the difficult issues of job cuts and regulatory fines. □

# Boeing ready to move on 787 fix, if US approves

**JOSHUA FREED**  
**AP Business Writer**

Boeing said Monday that it is set to move quickly to get its 787s back in the air if it gets U.S. federal approval for a fix for the batteries that have grounded the planes. The Federal Aviation Administration is considering a plan that Boeing submitted on Feb. 22 for fixing the batteries. The FAA has said it expects its experts to recommend this week whether to accept the plan. Ray Conner, who runs Boeing Co.'s commercial airplane unit, described the

process to industry analysts at a J.P. Morgan aviation conference in New York. The FAA certifies parts used on planes, and changes can prompt the need for a part's re-certification. The agency has to first certify Boeing's fix, then it has to approve testing for the fix, Conner said. Then Boeing will be able to install the fix on the 50 787s that have been delivered so far. Once it gets FAA permission, "this will move really fast in terms of being able to get the airplanes back into the air," Conner said. "We are prepared, we are

ready to go." Conner didn't say how long he thought all that would take. Boeing's fix has been described as a long-term solution aimed at making sure that short-circuiting in one battery cell can't spread to another. The 787 has been grounded since Jan. 16 after one plane had a battery fire, and a smoking battery on another plane forced an emergency landing. Deliveries of 787s are halted, but Boeing is still building them. It's making five per month now, and is mov-

ing to seven per month, on its way to 10 by a month by the end of the year. Boeing is still following its plan to speed up production. "Obviously that could change if something were to go sideways with the FAA," Conner said. Boeing has teams working on the speedup and some 200 engineers working on the battery fix. "I'm kind of working both at this point in time," Conner said. "That's why I only live on four hours of sleep a night." Boeing is about to begin building the 787-9, a lon-

ger version of the plane it makes now, with more seats. And it has been tentatively planning to make a longer-still 787-10 if there's enough interest. "Clearly having the fleet down right now has slowed things down a bit," Conner said, referring to the 787-10. "I think we would have been in much better shape from having people cross the finish line" if not for the battery problem. He said, however, he thinks interest is strong enough that Boeing will soon be able to commit to build the plane. □



# Stocks grind higher, pushing Dow toward record high

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Investors brushed off early jitters about a potential slowdown in China and pushed the Dow to its highest close of the year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 38.16 points, or 0.3 percent, to 14,127.82. The index is a fraction of a percentage point away from its record close of 14,164, reached on Oct. 9, 2007.

Stocks dropped at the opening bell and stayed lower most of the morning amid concern that new steps introduced by the Chinese government to cool the booming housing market in the world's second-largest economy.

Chinese markets were dragged down by housing stocks, which fell sharply after the country's cabinet ordered new measures to rein in home prices. China will raise minimum down payments in areas where prices are deemed to be rising too fast and crack down on efforts to evade limits on how many properties each buyer can acquire.

"The U.S. market continues to digest the negative news and hang tough," said Ryan Detrick, a senior strategist at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

The stock market has rallied this year on optimism

that the U.S. housing market is recovering and signs that companies are hiring more. Strong corporate earnings and continuing

into U.S. stock mutual funds in the week ending Feb. 27, according to Lipper. That's the eighth straight week investors have put

Advisors, said.

"I'd love to see a pullback, because pullbacks are opportunities," Wren said.

Janet Yellen, vice chair of

Republicans and Democrats pledged to retroactively undo the cuts, but they have given no indication of how that process would take shape.

In other trading, the Standard & Poor's 500 rose 7 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,525.20. The Nasdaq composite gained 12.29 points, or 0.4 percent, to 3,182.03. European markets were mixed. The dollar was little changed against the euro. Among other stocks making big moves:

— Select Comfort, a manufacturer of specialty mattresses, fell \$3.23, or 15.7 percent, to \$17.28 after the company warned that it will likely fall short of its first-quarter goals as a result of lower-than-expected sales.

— Hess gained \$2.30, or 3.5 percent, to \$68.84 after the company said it would get out of the retail business as well as energy trading and marketing to focus on exploration and production.

— Yahoo! rose 76 cents, or 3.5 percent, to \$22.70 after Barclays analysts raised their rating on the stock to "overweight" and increased their price target to \$26. The bank says the value of the company's minority stakes in Alibaba Group and Yahoo! Japan are not fully reflected in the current stock price.

— Apple fell \$10.40, or 2.4 percent, to \$420. □



A sign for Wall Street is displayed on the side of building near the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, March 4, 2013. Uncertainty over the outcome of a budget battle in Washington pushed world stock markets lower on Monday, but the Dow Jones rallied late in the day and ground out a small gain, pushing closer to its all-time record.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

economic stimulus from the Federal Reserve have also boosted stock prices. Despite having already logged strong gains this year, stocks may still be able to maintain their momentum as investors move money out of bonds, Rob Lutts, chief investment officer at Cabot Money Management, said.

"It's all about where the money is going," Lutts said. "If the money that is sitting on the sideline, or in bonds, is moving into equities that alone is enough to create that shift."

Investors put \$2.8 billion

more money into stocks, the longest streak of inflows in almost two years.

The Dow has risen 7.8 percent so far this year and the S&P 500 index is 6.9 percent higher, while the yield on the 10-year Treasury note remains below 2 percent. The yield, which moves inversely to its price, rose 3 basis points to 1.87 percent Monday.

For now, stocks are likely to grind higher as investors who missed the rally at the start of the year buy stocks on any drops in the market, Scott Wren, a senior equity strategist at Wells Fargo

the Federal Reserve, said Monday she does not see risks at the moment from the U.S. central bank's low-interest rate policies. The Fed is buying \$85 billion each month in Treasury and mortgage-backed securities to keep long-term interest rates very low.

Investors' enthusiasm is being held in check by the automatic government budget cuts that took effect Friday after President Barack Obama and Congress failed to reach a budget deal. Economists expect the cuts to hurt U.S. economic growth. Both

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## Mutts

THE FIRST SHTEP  
IN LEARNING HOW  
TO PURR IS TO  
TOTALLY RELAX.



THIS SHMIGHT BE  
DIFFICULT AT  
FIRST BUT SOON  
WITH PRACTICE YOU



ZZZZZ



## 6 Chix

DON'T GET ME WRONG;  
I THINK IT'S GREAT. I  
JUST MISS MY  
BOOKMARKS.



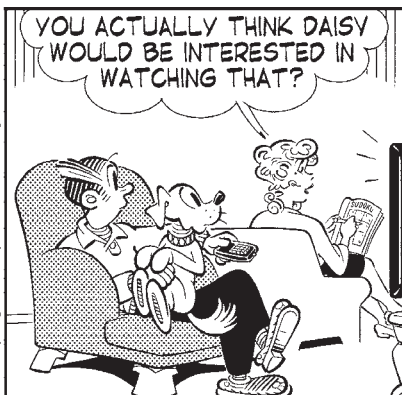
## Blondie

LOOK, THEY LAUNCHED A  
24-HOUR CHANNEL JUST  
FOR DOGS!

WOOF!



YOU ACTUALLY THINK DAISY  
WOULD BE INTERESTED IN  
WATCHING THAT?



WELL, YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE  
BETTER THAN SOME OF  
THOSE LAMEBRAINED  
REALITY SHOWS!

REALLY...



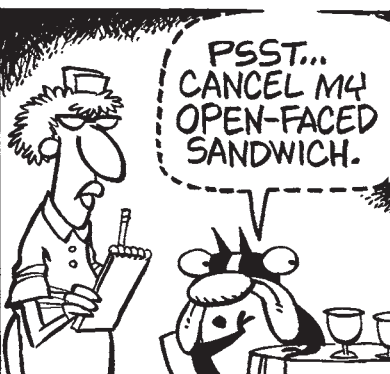
## Mother Goose & Grimm

SO ASHLEY, I  
UNDERSTAND  
YOU'RE A VEGAN.  
WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?

WE DON'T EAT  
ANYTHING  
THAT HAS A  
NOSE, MOUTH  
OR EYES.



PSST...  
CANCEL MY  
OPEN-FACED  
SANDWICH.



## Baby Blues

LOTS OF KIDS  
ACCIDENTALLY WET  
THE BED,  
HAMMIE.

I GUESS  
SO.



AND IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT,  
OR MINE.



ESPECIALLY MINE...

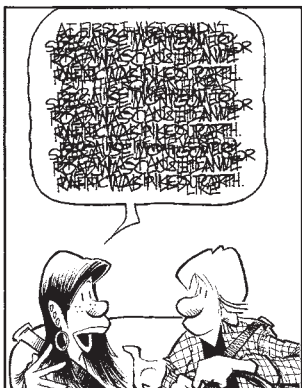


I MEAN, I GIVE 110%  
EVERY SINGLE DAY!

LET'S  
FOCUS ON  
ME, MOM.



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

			4	3	9			
		3		5				
	8		1			2		
3		4						2
9	1			8			5	6
6						4		3
		9			7		1	
				6		8		
			5	2	3			

Difficulty Level ★★

3/05

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6	7	4	3	5	2	1	9	8
8	2	3	7	1	9	5	6	4
9	1	5	6	8	4	7	2	3
2	4	8	5	9	1	6	3	7
7	3	9	2	4	6	8	1	5
5	6	1	8	3	7	9	4	2
3	8	2	1	6	5	4	7	9
4	5	6	9	7	3	2	8	1
1	9	7	4	2	8	3	5	6

## ACROSS

- Region
- Refuse to obey
- Slender
- Pitcher
- Sidestep
- Rubber tube
- Sorrowful drop
- Feelings
- Critter that bit Cleopatra
- Hoodlum
- Leases
- October birthstones
- Columnist Thomas
- On an incline
- shower; pre-wedding party
- Mini, for one
- Sandbank
- Flower garden
- Windy day toy
- Regretting
- Bangkok native
- Bath with seats
- Exposed
- In a bad mood
- "You \_\_, you lose"
- \_\_ of July; U.S. Independence Day
- Dessert choice
- \_\_ Pyle; role for Jim Nabors
- Yeltsin or Becker
- Sage or thyme
- Large flightless bird
- Colorless imitation gem
- Large African antelopes
- Helper
- Takes on, as an employee
- Pinnacle
- \_\_ well; excels
- Bread ingredient
- Not as much

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23			24					25				
26	27						28			29	30	
31						32	33			34		35
36						37				38		
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61					62					63		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

3/5/13

## Monday's Puzzle Solved

CANAL	CLAD	HERE
ALOHA	AIDE	EXAM
PESOS	NOON	SIZE
EXERTION	TAILOR	
SIDE	MASTERY	
SERENE	CULPA	
AVE	GALES	SNAGS
REAR	LICIT	TRIO
ASPEN	NICER	ILL
CAMEL	HERALD	
OCTOPUS	CEDE	
DRIVER	SHERLOCK	
DAME	ASIA	EAGLE
EVER	LEAF	STRAY
REDS	SAME	SEEMS

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3/5/13

## DOWN

- Fraternity letter
- Is in debt

- Level a building
- Bona fide; real
- Idaho's capital
- Barber's item
- Expresses one's views
- Woods
- Autry & Barry
- Actor Pitt
- Toledo's state
- Go for a \_\_; take a spin
- Israeli dance
- "\_\_ the world!"
- \_\_ up; spends
- Bashful
- Even score
- Four qts.



## Middle East is reining global travel crossroads

Continued from page 12

European airlines have suggested that the Gulf carriers benefit from access to discounted oil, a favorable tax climate and non-union labor, particularly low-wage immigrant workers from India and Pakistan. But the biggest perk comes from Middle East governments who are investing heavily in attractive, efficient airports.

The Qatari government is building a \$15.5 billion airport in Doha, designed to handle 24 million people each year, nearly six times the capacity of the existing facility. In Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, the government is building a sprawling terminal twice the size of The Mall of America.

And construction was just completed in Dubai of a concourse designed exclusively for Emirates' fleet of Airbus A380s. The new building has entire floors dedicated to first and business class customers who board directly from lounges, never interacting with coach passengers.

"Governments here understand the power of con-

nectivity to drive economies," Tony Tyler, CEO of the International Air Transport Association said in a recent speech in Abu Dhabi.

The airlines deny getting special treatment. Emirates got \$10 million in startup cash from the government in 1985. The airline's president, Tim Clark, says his airline has had no assistance since and benefits from economies of scale. The airline reported a net profit of \$628 million in its most recent fiscal year. "People keep saying we're cheats," he says. "What they can't understand is that something could be as good and profitable as it has been without subsidies. You know why? Because they've all had subsidies themselves and they still can't make it."

Clark says the U.S. government subsidizes airlines by allowing them to wipe out debt in bankruptcy court. All three of the largest U.S. airlines — American, Delta and United — have used the courts in the past decade to restructure.

European airlines stand to lose the most business because of their geography,

but that doesn't mean that U.S. carriers aren't watching closely.

The three Gulf airlines already fly to Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington and are adding flights at breakneck pace. The airlines aren't just dipping their toes into these markets; they are diving in, in some cases with giant double-deck Airbus A380s that can seat 489 passengers.

"I think they are a clear threat, much more so to our European and Asian colleagues, but nonetheless a threat to U.S. airlines as well," Jeff Smisek, CEO of United Continental Holdings Inc., said at an investor conference last March. "They have a very good product.

And they have the total and absolute support of their governments."

The airlines are not household names yet, but they will be soon, analysts say. United was a key sponsor of the U.S. Open tennis tournament for more than a decade. But last year, Emirates took over with a seven-year deal reported to have cost \$90 million. □

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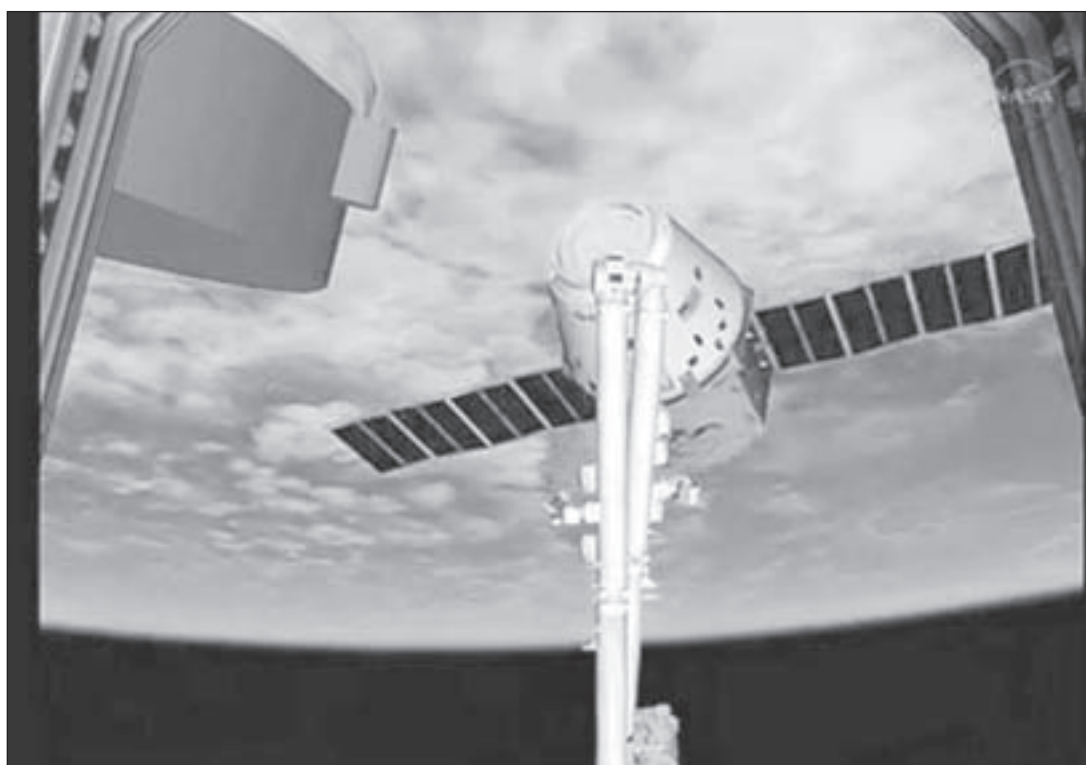
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# Tamed Dragon supply ship arrives at space station

MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A private Earth-to-orbit delivery service made good on its latest shipment to the International Space Station on Sunday, overcoming mechanical problems and delivering a ton of supplies with high-flying finesse. To NASA's relief, the SpaceX company's Dragon capsule pulled up to the orbiting lab with all of its systems in perfect order. Station astronauts used a hefty robot arm to snare the unmanned Dragon, and three hours later, it was bolted into place. The Dragon's arrival couldn't have been sweeter — and not because of the fresh fruit on board for the six-man station crew. Coming a full day late, the 250-mile (400-kilometer)-high linkup above Ukraine culminated a two-day chase that got off to a shaky, almost dead-ending start. Moments after the Dragon reached orbit Friday, a clogged pressure line or stuck valve prevented the timely release of the solar panels and the crucial firing of small maneuvering rockets. SpaceX flight controllers struggled for several hours before gaining control of the capsule and salvaging the mission. "As they say, it's not where you start, but where you finish that counts," space station commander Kevin Ford said after capturing



This frame grab made available by NASA TV shows a view of the SpaceX Dragon capsule on the end of the International Space Station's robotic arm, Sunday, March 3, 2013. Associated Press

the Dragon capsule, "and you guys really finished this one on the mark." He added: "We've got lots of science on there to bring aboard and get done. So congratulations to all of you." Among the items on board: 640 seeds of a flowering weed used for research, mouse stem cells, food and clothes for the six men on board the space station, trash bags, computer equipment, air purifiers, spacewalking tools and batteries. The company also tucked away apples and other fresh treats from an employee's family orchard.

The Dragon will remain at the space station for most of March before returning to Earth with science samples, empty food containers and old equipment. California-based SpaceX run by billionaire Elon Musk has a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA to keep the station well stocked. The contract calls for 12 supply runs; this was the second in that series. This is the third time, however, that a Dragon has visited the space station. The previous capsules had no trouble reaching their destination. Company officials promise a thorough investigation into what

went wrong this time; if the maneuvering thrusters had not been activated, the capsule would have been lost. Ford said everything about Sunday's rendezvous ended up being "fantastic." "There sure were some big smiles all around here," NASA's Mission Control replied from Houston. Proclaimed SpaceX on its web site: "Happy Berth Day." In a tweet following Friday's nerve-racking drama, Musk said, "Just want to say thanks to (at) NASA for being the world's coolest customer. Looking forward to delivering

the goods!" Musk, who helped create the online payment processor PayPal, acknowledged Friday that the problem — the first ever for an orbiting Dragon — was "frightening." But he believed it was a one-time glitch and nothing so serious as to imperil future missions. The 41-year-old entrepreneur, who also runs the electric car maker Tesla, oversaw the entire operation from Hawthorne, California, home to SpaceX and the company's Mission Control. The Dragon's splashdown in the Pacific, off the Southern California coast, remains on schedule for March 25.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is counting on the commercial sector to supply the space station for the rest of this decade; it's supposed to keep running until at least 2020. Russia, Europe and Japan are doing their part, periodically launching their own cargo ships. But none of those craft can return items like the Dragon can; they burn up on re-entry. Russia also is providing rides for astronauts — the only game in town since the retirement of NASA's space shuttles in 2011. SpaceX, or more formally Space Exploration Technologies Corp., leads the commercial pack that is working toward launching astronauts in another few years. □

## China sets its 5th manned space mission for summer

BEIJING (AP) — China will send three astronauts to its orbiting space station this summer in a mission that's part of preparations to establish an even larger permanent presence above Earth.

The Shenzhou 10 spacecraft will take flight sometime between June and August, the country's manned space program said in its statement Thursday. The craft will deliver its crew to the Tiangong 1, where the

trio will spend two weeks conducting tests of the station's docking system and its systems for supporting life and carrying out scientific work. Two Chinese spacecraft, one of them manned, have docked already with Tiangong 1 since it was launched in September 2011. China has been extremely cautious and methodical in its manned missions, while hoping to avoid accidents and loss of life that could tarnish one of the nation's most successful and prestigious scientific and engineering undertakings. □



In this Oct. 15, 2003 file photo, China's first manned spacecraft Shenzhou 5 lifts off at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China's Gansu Province.

Associated Press

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## Schwarzenegger to be executive editor of magazines



Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger poses for photographers during a press conference to promote his latest film "The Last Stand" in Tokyo, Thursday, Feb. 21, 2013.

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — He was the Terminator, then a governor, and now Arnold Schwarzenegger is an editor. The Los Angeles Times reports Schwarzenegger has been named executive editor of Muscle & Fitness and Flex magazines. It's a position that the former Mr. Olympia held briefly 10 years ago, after winning California's gubernatorial recall election. After being criticized for poten-

tial conflict of interest, he quit the job.

The Times says Schwarzenegger, who has appeared on the magazines' covers more than 60 times, will contribute columns and other input.

In a statement, Schwarzenegger says it was publications like Muscle & Fitness and Flex that inspired him to start lifting weights. The magazines are owned by American Media Inc. □

## 'Glee' and 'Archie' bridge comics, TV in crossover

MATT MOORE

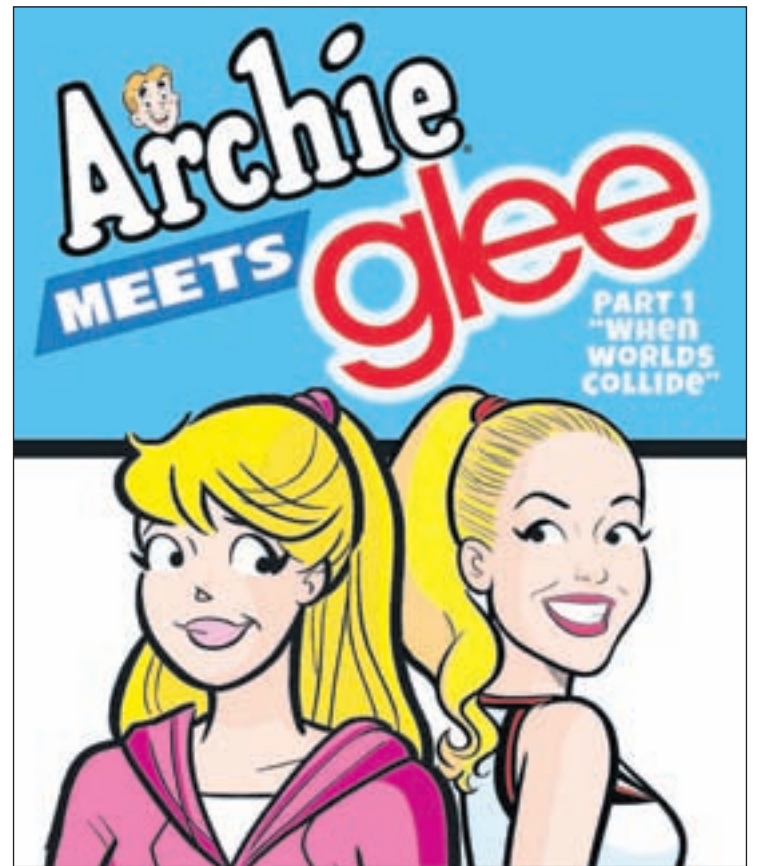
Associated Press  
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Blaine Anderson and Kevin Keller? Betty Cooper and Noah Puckerman?

Things are not as they usually are in the halls of William McKinley and Riverdale high schools.

And that's just the way it should be, said Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa, who writes for "Glee" and penned the four-issue story arc, "Archie Meets Glee," that sees Riverdale and McKinley's famous — and vocally talented — students come together in a crossover crash that blends the snark of the television show and the long-standing wholesomeness of Archie, Jughead and Betty, among others.

The two worlds combine this week in the pages of "Archie Comics" No. 641, a story drawn by artist Dan Parent that extends through issue 644.

Show creator Ryan Murphy said the story honors and celebrates "the two worlds. Not just their similarities, but their differences, which I've think we've done." So what prompted it? A friendship between Aguirre-Sacasa and Archie Comics co-CEO Jon Gold-



This comic book image released by Archie Comic Publications, Inc. shows Archie's character Veronica, left, with Glee character Brittany Pierce on the cover of one of the "Archie Meets Glee," issues.

Associated Press

water, who met at New York Comic Con in 2011.

"The Archie brand is very versatile and we're continuing to explore our limits every day," Goldwater said of the latest crossover. "How perfectly these worlds mesh and how fun-

ny the comparisons are between the characters," said Aguirre-Sacasa, who was given free rein to tell the story that uses the conventions of wormholes and time warps to place the characters in the different universes. □

## Actress Geena Davis critical of Oscar host

BY LAURA OLSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, California

**(AP)** — Academy Award winner Geena Davis on Monday waded into the ongoing controversy over this year's Oscar ceremony by saying host Seth MacFarlane's routine was disrespectful to women, particularly the performers who were being honored. The "Thelma & Louise" star said MacFarlane's much-criticized routine last month overshadowed the win of an animated film with a strong female character. "It's a shame that that triumph was enveloped in an awards ceremony containing disrespect for women,"

Davis told members of the California Assembly during a ceremony in Sacramento. "But it helps illustrate how tone-deaf we can still be regarding the status of women."

She commended "Brave," which won best animated picture, as setting a positive example for girls.

Davis, who won a best supporting actress Oscar for "The Accidental Tourist" in 1988, was in the state capital as one of 11 California women honored for their achievements.

She is chairwoman of the state's Commission on the Status of Women and Girls and founded a nonprofit that promotes gender

equality in the media.

Last week, two female state lawmakers sent a letter to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences asking it to condemn MacFarlane's quips about nude scenes and the attractiveness of several female actresses as degrading toward women.

The academy issued a general statement defending MacFarlane and saying the award show is about "creative freedom."

Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, a Santa Barbara Democrat who co-authored the letter, said Monday that she was disappointed the academy did not address her concerns. □



Actress Geena Davis addresses the state Assembly at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif., Monday, March 4, 2013. Davis, who is the chairwoman of the Commission on the Status of Women, was one of several women honored for their accomplishments.

Associated Press





This April 25, 2010 file photo shows U.S. singer Whitney Houston performing at the o2 in London as part of her European tour.  
Associated Press

## FBI releases its records on Whitney Houston

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The FBI has released its files on a trio of investigations the agency conducted on behalf of Whitney Houston. The records released Monday show the agency conducted one investigation into an alleged extortion attempt in 1992, but agents and prosecutors determined no crime occurred.

Agents also found no evidence of criminal threats to the singer in fan mail that was sent to the FBI for investigation in 1988 and 1999. The 128-page file covers the height of the Grammy-winning singer's popularity but does not contain any new personal details. Houston drowned in a hotel bathtub on the eve of the 2012 Grammy Awards. □

## Heidi Klum new judge on 'Talent'

**NEW YORK (AP)** — NBC says Heidi Klum has been added to "America's Got Talent" as its fourth judge. The network announced Monday that the supermodel will join fellow incoming judge Mel B this summer for the talent competition's eighth season. Howie Mandel and Howard Stern will be back on the judges' panel. Klum says she's excited to join the show and size up the talent, "from the ridiculous to the fantastic!" She continues to host the Peabody Award-winning "Project Runway" on Lifetime, as well as Germany's "Next Top Model." □



Model Heidi Klum arrives at the 2013 Elton John Oscar Party in West Hollywood, Calif. on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013.

Associated

## Washington museum shows rare portrait of queen



In this image released by The Elizabethan Gardens, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I is shown. The portrait which hung in a gift shop in Manteo, N.C., for decades is now part of an exhibition at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC.

Associated Press

**MARTHA WAGGONER**  
Associated Press

**RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)** — For decades, a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I hung in a small garden gift shop on North Carolina's Outer Banks. Legend had it that the piece was rare — it depicted the monarch as an old woman — but some art experts disagreed. That all changed in 2010, when East Carolina University's conservator analyzed the portrait and dated it to 1592, when Elizabeth would have been about 60 years old. Now, the portrait has made its way to Washington, D.C., for its first exhibit since benefactor Ruth Coltrane Cannon donated it to the Elizabethan Gardens in the 1950s. All the attention has Carl Curnutte, the gardens' executive director, considering the portrait in a whole new light. "The gardens respected it just as we respect all of our furnishings," he said. "It was just seen as a part of the whole facility. And now it's

totally different. I react to it differently." The oil-on-oak painting is part of "Nobility and Newcomers in Renaissance Ireland" at the Folger Shakespeare Library. The artist is unknown, but the painting has long been attributed to the school of Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger, an artist of the Tudor court. It is one of maybe just two large portraits that show Elizabeth as an older woman, said Anna Riehl Bertolet, author of "The Face of Queenship: Early Modern Representations of Elizabeth I." The other is in the Burghley House Collection in England and also is attributed to Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger. Bertolet said Elizabeth protected her image not because of vanity, but because a painting of an aging queen could undermine her power and worry her subjects since she had no husband, no children and no named successor. "So she really didn't perpetuate the image of a very realistic Elizabeth," said Bertolet, an associate

professor of English at Auburn University.

But in the portrait from North Carolina, Bertolet said, Elizabeth "looks very calm and philosophical. She's old, but she owns it. She doesn't look like she's embarrassed at being old. She's a woman in power who has aged."

Cannon bought the portrait from a New York City art gallery. Once it was placed at the Elizabethan Gardens, board Chairwoman Marie Odom tried at least a few times to determine its value, her daughter remembered. Odom was president of the North Carolina Garden Club, which founded the period gardens as a memorial to the area's colonists.

"She thought it was valuable, and they told her it wasn't," Lisa Odom said of her mother, who died in 2003. "Bless her heart. ... I think she would be thrilled. She gave her soul to that garden."

The portrait eventually made its way from the gardens to the walls of the Folger through the work of two ECU teachers: history professor Larry Tise, and Thomas Herron, associate professor of English and co-curator of the Folger show. When Tise was director of the state Office of Archives and History, he visited the gardens often. Each time, he would ask about the portrait and get the same answer: It was from the 16th century and it was hanging there because that's where Mrs. Cannon wanted it.

He left North Carolina in the early 1980s and returned in the late 1990s. "And there was that danged portrait in the gift shop," he said. Eventually, ECU hired a conservator, who studied the portrait in 2010 and concluded it really was painted in the late 16th century. "By this point, it had so much interest, it had to go into a vault," Tise said. □



## Scary Hidden Stressors



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN  
© 2013 New York Times

In her introduction to a compelling new study, "The Arab Spring and Climate Change," released Thursday, the Princeton scholar Anne-Marie Slaughter notes that crime shows often rely on the concept of a "stressor." A stressor, she explains, is a "sudden change in circumstances or environment that interacts with a complicated psychological profile in a way that leads a previously quiescent person to become violent." The stressor is never the only explanation for the crime, but it is inevitably an important factor in a complex set of variables that lead to a disaster. "The Arab Spring and Climate Change" doesn't claim that climate change caused the recent wave of Arab revolutions, but, taken together, the essays make a strong case that the interplay between climate change, food prices (particularly wheat) and politics is a hidden stressor that helped to fuel the revolutions and will continue to make consolidating them into stable democracies much more difficult. Jointly produced by the Center for American Progress, the Stimson Center and the Center for Climate and Security, this collection of essays opens with the Oxford University geographer Troy Sternberg, who demonstrates how in 2010-11, in tandem with the Arab awakenings, "a once-in-a-century winter drought in China" – combined, at the same time, with record-breaking heat waves or floods in other key wheat-growing countries (Ukraine, Russia, Canada and Australia) – "contributed to global wheat shortages and skyrocketing bread prices" in wheat-importing states, most of which are in the Arab world. Only a small fraction – 6 percent to 18 percent – of annual global wheat production is traded across borders, explained Sternberg, "so any decrease in world supply contributes to a sharp rise in wheat prices and has a serious economic impact in countries such as Egypt, the largest wheat importer in the world." The numbers tell the story: "Bread provides one-third of the caloric intake in Egypt, a country where 38 percent of income is spent on food," notes Sternberg. "The doubling of global wheat prices – from \$157/metric ton in June 2010 to \$326/metric ton in February 2011 – thus significantly impacted the country's food supply and availability." Global food prices peaked at an all-time high in March 2011, shortly after President Hosni Mubarak was toppled in Egypt. Consider this: The world's top nine wheat-importers are in the Middle East:

"Seven had political protests resulting in civilian deaths in 2011," said Sternberg. "Households in the countries that experience political unrest spend, on average, more than 35 percent of their income on food supplies," compared with less than 10 percent in developed countries. Everything is linked: Chinese drought and Russian bushfires produced wheat shortages leading to higher bread prices fueling protests in Tahrir Square. Sternberg calls it the globalization of "hazard." Ditto in Syria and Libya. In their essay, the study's co-editors, Francesco Femia and Caitlin Werrell, note that from 2006 to 2011, up to 60 percent of Syria's land experienced the worst drought ever recorded there – at a time when Syria's population was exploding and its corrupt and inefficient regime was proving incapable of managing the stress. In 2009, they noted, the U.N. and other international agencies reported that more than 800,000 Syrians lost their entire livelihoods as a result of the great drought, which led to "a massive exodus of farmers, herders, and agriculturally dependent rural families from the Syrian countryside to the cities," fueling unrest. The future does not look much brighter. "On a scale of wetness conditions," Femia and Werrell note, "where a reading of -4 or below is considered extreme drought," a 2010 report by the National Center for Atmospheric Research shows that Syria and its neighbors face projected readings of -8 to -15 as a result of climatic changes in the next 25 years." Similar trends, they note, are true for Libya, whose "primary source of water is a finite cache of fossilized groundwater, which already has been severely stressed while coastal aquifers have been progressively invaded by seawater." Scientists like to say that, when it comes to climate change, we need to manage what is unavoidable and avoid what is unmanageable. That requires collective action globally to mitigate as much climate change as we can and the building of resilient states locally to adapt to what we can't mitigate. The Arab world is doing the opposite. Arab states as a group are the biggest lobbyists against efforts to reduce oil and fuel subsidies. According to the International Monetary Fund, as much as one-fifth of some Arab state budgets go to subsidizing gasoline and cooking fuel – more than \$200 billion a year in the Arab world as a whole – rather than into spending on health and education. Meanwhile, locally, Arab states are being made less resilient by the tribalism and sectarianism that are eating away at their democratic revolutions. As Sarah Johnstone and Jeffrey Mazo of the International Institute for Strategic Studies conclude in their essay, "fledgling democracies with weak institutions might find it even harder to deal with the root problems than the regimes they replace, and they may be more vulnerable to further unrest as a result." Yikes. □



## Changing Minds After Newtown



JOE NOCERA  
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**MINNEAPOLIS** – In the two months since the massacre in Newtown, Conn., there are a lot of people who still can't shake it – who don't want to shake it, really. They keep replaying in their minds what it must have been like in Sandy Hook Elementary School that awful December morning when Adam Lanza killed 20 children and six adults at the school before taking his own life. They think about their own children. They wonder how America can stop such senseless, random, murderous spectacles. Rebecca and Jon Bond are two such people. They have three children, ranging in age from 4 to 8. (Jon has two older children as well.) They live in a townhouse in Manhattan. Previous mass shootings had spurred the usual "when will this stop?" thoughts, but like most of us, they soon moved on. The Bonds knew so little about guns that "I thought a magazine was, you know, a magazine," says Rebecca, a contributing editor at Architectural Digest. Newtown changed them. Jon, 55, is a well-known advertising executive (he co-founded the hip firm Kirshenbaum & Bond in 1987); Rebecca, 46, is a branding expert. As they found themselves obsessively thinking and

talking about Newtown, they decided to use their considerable talents and contacts to try to do something about it. On Thursday, I went to Minneapolis to get a glimpse of the earliest, tentative fruits of their labors. Here is Jon and Rebecca's big idea: They want to create an anti-violence organization – a "brand," they call it – that will appeal to gun owners and nongun owners alike. "When you talk to gun owners, if your purpose is to make them feel bad, they will push back," said Jon, "and you will lose them." "But," chimed in Rebecca, "when you reframe the issue as 'how can we save lives?' the conversation shifts. Responsible gun owners and nongun owners both want to save lives. They have that in common. The end goal is to save lives." As advertisers and marketers, they had both worked with the liquor industry, and they had seen how outside pressure – from Mothers Against Drunk Driving, for instance – could change the larger culture so that once-acceptable behaviors became unacceptable. They had also seen how the industry had ultimately participated in safe-drinking campaigns. Whatever happens in Washington is not likely to change the behavior of gun owners. New laws, for instance, are unlikely to force gun owners to keep their guns under lock and key, so that children can't have access to them. The only thing that can really change such behavior is a cultural shift. The Bonds want to help bring about such a shift. As they explained all this to me, Jon and Rebecca were joined by their friends Bob Barrie and Stuart D'Rozario, co-founders of the Minneapolis advertising agency Barrie D'Rozario Murphy, whose conference room they were all using. Another friend in the business, Claudine Cheever of Saatchi & Saatchi, was participating by phone.

Bob and Stuart were among those Jon and Rebecca had contacted early on. Stuart had flown to New York, where, over a long breakfast, they had devised a name for the brand: Evolve. If you put an "R" before and after the word "evolve" – which, indeed, they did when they designed the logo, in the lightest of type – it spells "Revolver." In the subsequent weeks, Stuart and Bob had been working on an ad campaign, one that they hoped would capture the right "voice," as they put it – a tone that would vividly illustrate the importance of changing gun behavior without being polarizing. Stuart laid out on the conference table some of the mock-ups he had done of potential print ads. One headline read: "Is the issue illegal guns or legal guns? Yes." A second one: "A gun in the house is 22 times more likely to cause an accident than protect you." Stuart liked that one, but Jon feared that it might be too hectoring, and thus too alienating. They let the question hang, and moved to another ad. "Friends don't let friends with children keep guns unlocked in the house," read a third headline. Rebecca instantly reacted. "This one welcomes people," she said. "We want this brand to be welcoming, and inclusive. This one does it." Jon and the others nodded in agreement. As I left for the airport, they were still in the conference room, talking, thinking, looking, planning. Even after they settle on the right voice, of course, there will be so much to do: a television campaign, social media, a website. Evolve has to become a living, breathing entity. And, of course, money has to be raised – money that will allow the ads to air and the organization to grow. "Maybe I'll turn out to be naive, but I'm optimistic," said Rebecca. Me, too. □



# Underworld saint becoming more popular in US

**RUSSELL CONTRERAS**

**Associated Press**

**ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP)** — A follower in New Orleans built a public shrine in her honor. An actor in Albuquerque credits her with helping him land a role on the TV show "Breaking Bad."

She turns up routinely along the U.S.-Mexico border at safe houses, and is sighted on dashboards of cars used to smuggle methamphetamine through the southwest desert.

Popular in Mexico, and sometimes linked to the illicit drug trade, the skeleton saint known as La Santa Muerte in recent years has found a robust and diverse following north of the border: immigrant small business owners, artists, gay activists and the poor, among others — many of them non-Latinos and not all involved with organized religion.

Clad in a black nun's robe and holding a scythe in one hand, Santa Muerte appeals to people seeking all manner of otherworldly help: from fending off wrongdoing and carrying out vengeance to stopping lovers from cheating and landing better jobs. And others seek her protection for their drug shipments and to ward off law enforcement.

"Her growth in the United States has been extraordinary," said Andrew Chesnut, author of "Devoted to Death: Santa Muerte, the Skeleton Saint" and the Bishop Walter F. Sullivan Chair in Catholic Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University. "Because you can ask her for anything, she has mass appeal and is now gaining a diverse group of followers throughout the country. She's the ultimate multi-tasker."

Exact numbers of her followers are impossible to determine, but they are clearly growing, Chesnut said.

The saint is especially popular among Mexican-American Catholics, rivaling that of St. Jude and La

Virgen de Guadalupe as a favorite for miracle requests, even as the Catholic Church in Mexico denounces Santa Muerte as satanic, experts say.

Her image has been used on prayers cards citing vengeance and protection, which are sometimes found at scenes of massacred bodies and on shipments of drugs.

trafficking.

Almonte has visited shrines throughout Mexico, and given workshops to law enforcement agencies on the cult of the saint.

"Criminals pray to La Santa Muerte to protect them from law enforcement," Almonte said. "But there are good people who pray to her who aren't involved in any criminal activity so we

saint by building altars and offering votive candles, fruits, tequila, cigarettes — even lines of cocaine in some cases — in exchange for wishes, Chesnut said. A red La Santa Muerte, her best-selling image, helps in matters of love. Gold ones aid with employment and white ones give protection. Meanwhile, a black Santa Muerte can provide vengeance.

"She's my queen," said Arely Vazquez Gonzalez, a Mexican immigrant and transgender woman who oversees a large altar inside her Queens, New York apartment. Against one wall of her bedroom altar is a tall, sitting Santa Muerte statue in a black dress surrounded by offerings of tequila. Gonzalez, who sports a tattoo of La Santa Muerte on her back, holds an annual event in August in the saint's honor, with mariachis and a feast.

"All I have to do I ask for her guidance and she provides me with what I need," she said.

The origins of La Santa Muerte are unclear. Some followers say she is an incarnation of an Aztec goddess of death who ruled the underworld. Some scholars say she originated in medieval Spain through the image of La Parca, a female Grim Reaper, who was used by friars for the later evangelization of indigenous populations in the Americas.

For decades, though, La Santa Muerte remained an underground figure in isolated regions of Mexico and served largely as an unofficial Catholic saint that women called upon to help with cheating spouses, Chesnut said.

It wasn't until 2001 when a devotee unveiled a public La Santa Muerte shrine in Mexico City that followers in greater numbers began to display their devotion for helping them with relationships and loved ones in prison. Economic uncertainty and a violent drug war against cartels that has claimed an estimated

40,000 lives also are credited for La Santa Muerte's growth.

Oscar Hagelsieb, assistant special agent in charge for Homeland Security Investigations in El Paso, said agents have found that most members of the Gulf and Zeta Cartels mainly pray to Santa Muerte while those from the Sinaloa and Sonora Cartels honor folk saint Jesus Malverde.

"Altars are very intricate. We have found some with food and others with blood from animals," Hagelsieb said. The association with cartels and denunciations by some priests has resulted in some non-devotees destroying makeshift roadside altars. Recently, assailants smashed a life-size statue of La Santa Muerte in a South Texas cemetery. Police in Pasadena, California, recently found human bones at a home with a Santa Muerte altar outside. The owners say they bought the bones online. But the vast majority of devotees aren't crooks.

Kiko Torres, owner of the Masks y Mas art store in Albuquerque, said sales of La Santa Muerte statues, incense, and oils have skyrocketed in recent months. "Most people who buy the stuff are regular people who just recently found out about her," he said. "Some probably have no idea about her connection to that other world."

One such devotee is Steven Bragg, 36, who said he was introduced to La Santa Muerte in 2009 and began praying to her for a variety of different reasons, including a plea for a life companion. Recently, the New Orleans man built a public chapel to her and holds rosary services that attract around a dozen people.

He also just formed a non-profit to support the "New Orleans Chapel of the Santisima Muerte," the official name of his public altar.

"It's something I decided to do after all that La Santa Muerte has provided," Bragg said. "She has never failed me." □



**An altar to La Sante Muerte run by Arely Vazquez Gonzalez, a Mexican immigrant and transgender woman, is shown inside a Queens, NY apartment.**

(AP Photo/Russell Contreras)

U.S. Marshal Robert Almonte in West Texas said he has testified about La Santa Muerte in at least five drug trafficking cases where her image aided prosecutors with convictions. Last year, Almonte testified that a Santa Muerte statue prayer card, found with a kilogram of methamphetamine in a couple's car in New Mexico, were "tools of the trade" for drug traffickers to protect them from law enforcement. The testimony was used to help convict the couple of drug

have to be careful." Devotees say La Santa Muerte has helped them find love, find better jobs and launch careers.

Gregory Beasley Jr., 35, believes he landed acting roles on "Breaking Bad" and the 2008 movie "Line-watch" after a traditional Mexican-American healer introduced him to La Santa Muerte.

"All my success ... I owe to her," he said. "She cleansed me and showed me the way."

Some devotees pray to the